A Short

RELATION

Of some part of the

SAD SUFFERINGS,

And Cruel

Havock and Spoil,

Inflicted on the Persons and Estates of the People of God, in scorn called

QUAKERS,

For meeting together to Worship God in Spirit and Truth, Since the late Act against Conventicles to the prejudice & ruin of many in their Liberties, Properties, Estates, and life it self. Contrary to the Laws of God, of Nature, and of the Land, to the dishonour of the Government, and destruction of the good People of *England*, for whose information this is published, and these horrible Oppressions laid open.

Isa. 59. *He looks for Judgement, and behold Oppression for Righteousness, but behold a Cry.*——Chap. 17, Ver. 12, 13, 14. *But God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee and be chased as the Chaff of the Mountains before the Wind, &c.*——*This is the Portion of them that spoile us, and the Lot of them that rob us*——Chap. 59. Ver. 13, 14, 15. *In Transgressing and lying against the Lord, &c.*——*Speaking Oppression, conceiving and uttering words of Falshood*——*And Judgment is turned away backward, and Justice stands afar off: for Truth is fallen in the street, and Equity cannot enter, &c*—*The Lord saw it, and it displeased him.*

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The Preface.

THough the Lord hath endued us with patience to ſuffer for the Teſtimony of our Conſciences, yet 'tis not meet that we ſhould alwayes ſuffer in ſilence, or remain mute, while unjuſtly expoſed to ruin, ſince the cry of this great Oppreſſion and Cruelty upon us is ſo loud, and muſt be manifeſt openly: and none will be offended or enraged at us (for publiſhing ſome of theſe injuries and agrievances cauſeleſly inflicted on us) but ſuch as are guilty thereof (or concerned) either in ſpirit or practice, ſuch being ſo involved in darkneſs & wickedneſs, that they would never have their deeds come to light, though their hearts be ſet in them to work wickedneſs ſtill, becauſe that Judgment is not ſpeedily executed upon them: and ſuch as now buſie themſelves, and are imployed as Promoters, Informers, and Diſturbers of the Peaceable Meetings of Gods People, and ſecretly encouraged in this horrible Oppreſſion and Perſecution of the Innocent, do manifeſt themſelves ſo inhumane, ſo cruel, and mercileſs, That neither Widows, Fatherleſs, nor Poor are regarded, or have mercy ſhewn by ſuch, but many expoſed to ruin, (as to an outward ſubſiſtance in this World) for the very Miſcreants of the Nation, the Scum of the Countrey, the worſt and baſeſt ſort of men (and both Drunkards and Swearers) without either credit or reputation among their Neighbours (who ſhould be kept under by the Law) are let loſe to do miſchief, to make havock, rob and ſpoil without meaſure, and that under pretence of a Law, whereby they take encouragement thus to act both againſt Law and Reaſon. and how many honeſt and induſtrious Tradeſmen, Imployers and Maintainers of the Poor are deeply ſtruck at, diſabled and diſcouraged in their Vocations by theſe unchriſtian and inhuman

proceedings against them, for meeting to serve and worship God according to their light and knowledge received of him: It is not unknown that those that are the most forward and busie Incendiaries to this work of Persecution, and spoiling of peaceable People of their goods, are generally Hypocrites, and creeping Temporisers for their own ends, and also idle desolate and debaucht Persons, who put themselves upon that ungratefull office of being Informers [together with Papists, who both are Incendiaries herein, and greatly gratified hereby, expecting that by such cruel means their design will be promoted, or made way for] *instigating the Magistrates to suppress the peaceable Meetings of Gods People, that these busie Informers may get money to spend upon their Lusts; which, where they are incouraged by the Rulers, and credit given to them, without any question made of their credit or reputation, they take the more incouragement both to trouble the Rulers and their Neighbours, which might easily be prevented, if Authority and true Judgment were exercised over them, by being strictly examined as they ought to be of what they heard or saw in any such Meetings as they informed against, of either words or actions that appear seditious, or where they did see any such thing as plotting or contriving Insurrections against the Peace of the Nation, and that under colour of tender Consciences: These things ought to be inquired into, both of Informers, and Witnesses; for the Act is entituled,* An Act to prevent and suppress Seditious Conventicles, *which cannot be meant of Innocent Meetings; and also, what colour or pretence of religious Exercise do these Informers, or Witnesses, see at our Meetings? and what do they hear spoken, or see done, that the Liturgy, and practice of the Church of* England *disallows of? Its no proof of evil against us for them to witness, that we have either Preaching or Praying, or silence in our Meetings;* [for al these are done in Truth and Righteousness, by the Righteous, or such as against whom there's no Law, to wit, *no righteous Law,*

or

or no Law of God] and in such cases, where also the Circumstance or Evidence of the Fact appear according to the late Act against seditious Conventicles? surely not by such general Testimonies as those Informers give, for its neither Sedition to preach truth, to pray to God for his Blessings, nor to sit in silence (with our minds intent upon the Lord) Now we ask, If the Magistrates ought not circumstantially to have the fact proved, according to the Law pretended, or else never to tell us of acting by the Law? but if these things were truely inquired and look'd into, they would neither be instigated to oppress innocent People for worshipping God according to their Consciences, nor countenance such wicked and Mercinary Prosecutors, as are neither of credit nor reputation amongst men.

But alas! how little, in these cases, are Informers and Witnesses so much as cautioned to take heed what they swear, or give in upon Oath against Religious Meeters. Moreover, where in many places our Friends have been taken sitting in silence in their Meetings (waiting upon the Lord) in which case, though neither colour nor pretence of an Exercise could be proved (according to the Act) much less any outward Act of exercise (for being in silence, they are only in the inward act or exercise of the mind, which the outward Law cannot take Cognizance of) yet many innocent men and Families on this account have deeply suffered, being Fined, and all, or most of their goods taken from them, and spoiled, some having their Shop-Goods, others, their Houshold Goods torn and taken away, and sold at an under worth (as Goods taken by Robbery used to be) others, their Cowes and Oxen and Horses — driven away, and the goods so taken in many places amounting to a greater value by manifold then the Fines: And in divers Places sold to some unconscionable persons (like the Distrainers) for not so much as a third part of their value (or of what they cost) as may appear at

avenged by the Sequel. O! these horrible Oppressions and Cruelties, how loud do they cry and how long shall the Land mourn under them? and the Innocent suffer by them? Surely, the sighing of the Poor, and the Cries of the Oppressed do enter into the Ears of the Lord of Hosts, and he will avenge his Elect, he will ease him of his Enemies, and avenge him of his Adversaries; Even so arise, O Lord, and appear thou Righteous Judge, for thy own Name and Seed's sake.

Glocester-shire.

Glocester-shire.

UPon the Tenth of the Fifth Moneth 1670. in *Cirencester*, the peaceable People of the Lord called *Quakers* met together, to appear before the Lord, and in his holy Fear to wait upon him; in which time came in *Tho. Masters*, called a Justice, and speaking to a Friend, cryed out in anger, Hayward, *What is the intent of your meeting here?* he answered, We meet together for no evil end, the Lord knows: but the Justice askt again, *But what is the End?* so one answered him, saying, We meet together in the fear of the Lord, to wait upon him: Then said the Justice, *And to Worship him too, Do you not?* Yes, said the Friend: *Thats enough*, said the Justice, *we need no further Evidence*: And so called his Clark, and took their Names, and Fined them. Then said a Friend, By what Law are we convicted? He said, *Why you have confessed, That you meet to Worship God*: Said the Friend, Is that a Crime or Transgression: *Yes that it is*, said the Justice: Said the Friend, Shew us that Law? Said the Justice, *Here is a Law, that you must not Worship God above Five together, except at the Church; and as for your suffering, be it upon us*: Said the Friend, So said the *Jews*, His Blood be on us; but it proved a heavy Burden upon them: With that he trembled, and in a rage laid hands on several of them, and called his Company to help him; and the Meeting being in an upper Room, they brought Friends to the top of the Stairs, and then one of the Officers, a wicked man, namely, *John Cook*, cryed, *Clear the Stairs*: And there being one *Robert Jenkins*, who is reported to be a Hangman, and escaped the Gallows to hang the rest, he was ready to assist in this Work, and so threw Friends down the Stairs: Amongst the rest of Friends, there was an Antient Honorable Woman, by Name, Widdow *Hewlings*, who by the violence of the Fall was lamentably Bruised, and her Shoulder seperated; so she could not be recovered, but dyed in

a ſhort time, who is greatly miſſed in thoſe parts, her Fellow being ſcarce left, ſhe being a skilful Mid-wife, and ready to do good unto all; ſo a *Coroner* was ſent for, and a Jury called, and the Hangman apprehended; but the aforeſaid Juſtice let the Murderer go at large, and many of his Perſuaders were choſen to be of the Jury, and then ſent his Clark, who before the *Coroner* threatned Friends, and ſaid they had better been quiet, for it ſhould make the worſe for them; for they did not deſerve the benefit of the Law, and he would excuſe the Hangman for Two Pence: And although there was ſeveral Witneſſes came in upon Oath, that ſaw the Abuſe, and many Teſtimonies of honeſt People, who were Eye-Witneſſes; yet the Tenants for fear of diſpleaſing their Landlord, and the *Coroner* willing to take part with the Perſecutors, ſmothered the Blood of the Innocent, and ſaid, *She died of Gods Viſitation*; though ſeveral of them ſaw the Corps, and the Bruiſes, and ſaid, it was *A ſad Sight to behold*, and and did believe ſhe was *greatly wronged*, and yet rather then diſpleaſe the great Perſecutor, violated the Law of God, and their own Conſciences; for which one day the Lord will plead with them all. Wo be to the Wicked; it ſhall go ill with them in that day.

Upon the 15th day of the third Moneth, 1670. in the City of *Gloceſter*, the People of God being met peaceably together, one *Thomas Langly* a Retainer to the Biſhops-houſe, with the Chancellors Son, came and ſtood at the Door; and though they did not ſee Friends in the Meeting, yet informed againſt them, and cauſed them to be fined.

Again, Upon the 22th day of the ſame Moneth, came the Biſhops Groom and *Langley* into the Meeting, and ſo went to *William Scuddamore* called a Juſtice, and informed againſt Friends; ſo he granted a Warrant of diſtreſs for five Shillings apiece.

Again, Upon the 29th day of the ſame Moneth, *Langly*, with a Boy, that is uſed to the Biſhops Stable, made Information againſt Friends; ſo *Wil. Scuddamore*, *Wil. Hodges*, called Juſtices, and one *Langford*, came and pluckt Friends out with much violence, and took their Names.

And

And again, Upon the 9th day of the 4th Moneth, came the Constables with *Sendlemore*, and *Hodges*, and the Mayor, and haled Friends out, and took their Names.

And Upon the 12th day of the same Moneth, came four called Justices (viz.) *Tho. Prince*, *Anthony Arnold*, *Will. Hodges*, and *Rob. Langdon*, and caused Friends to be haled out of the Meeting, and then *Arnold* and *Prince* struck several Friends, and seized upon the Meeting-House: Then upon the 19th day of the same Moneth, they appointed Souldiers to keep Friends out of the Yard; but Friends being gathered before they came, they haled them out into the Street; then came *Wagstaffe* the Mayor, with *Wil. Lamb* Clark to the Colledge, and beat Friends with their Cains, until the Mayors was spinted to pieces, then he got another Staff, and laid on with that; so when he was weary of that work, then he sent for a Sledge from the Smiths, and caused several Doors to be broke open, and so took from one Friend about ten Pounds worth of Goods; and from another a Pack of Linnen Cloth, worth about seventeen pounds, and the next day sent several Officers, who made great spoil from House to House, and since have continued doing the like, till they have almost got all away, even their very working Tools, so that some are constrained to give over their Trades: They took from a Smith his Bellows, and Anvil, and Vices, and other Tools; and they have scarce left any Friends a Bed to lie upon; and several were so cruelly beaten that their flesh was of many Colours. And the Mayor, meeting one Friend in the Street, sent her to Bridewel: And the Friend and his Wife, who had the Meeting at their House, had their Door lockt up; and the Mayor, and Major *Guie*, and Alderman *Fowler*, sent them both to Bridewel, the Woman being big with Child; and they still continue very violent, making the Steeple-houses the Den for their Prey, and afterwards bring the Goods into the Market-Street, and send the Bell-man to cry them, but few would buy them, though they might have had them for little.

At *Taynton*, There being a little Meeting of four Friends besides the Family, the wicked Priest of that Place, being a common Drunkard, stirred up his Companions to molest them; and

When they saw the late Act could not reach them, then they got a Warrant from Justice *Colchester*, so called, and levied four shillings apiece upon them, for not going to the Steeple-house; for which they took a Brass Kettle, worth sixteen Shillings; and from another, as much as came to the same value; and from another a Sheep, worth seven Shillings.

Also at *Oldston* and *Winterborn*, Because the People of the Lord called *Quakers* do meet together, to worship him, they are greatly disquieted, and their Cattel taken away by Droves to *Bristol* Market; and when the People and Butchers refuse to buy them, because they are taken from peaceable People, only for the Worshipping of God, then they usually send the Cattel to the Justices Grounds, or some others near them, until they can provide some base beggerly Fellows, not worth half a Cow, to buy the whole Parcel, at about half the worth of them.

In or near *Frampton*, There being a peaceable Meeting of Friends, and a Friend Speaking, and giving some wholsom Exhortations to the People; the ungodly Magistrates thereabouts caused to be taken from *John Tyler*, four good Cows; and many more from other Friends, who were at the same Meeting.

Oxfordshire.

THe 22th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. At *Warborough*, there being a peaceable Meeting of the Lords People; the Priest of the Parish turned Informer against them, and prest the Officers to disturb the Meeting, so the Priest came with them, and brought another Priest; so they charged Friends, *That they met contrary to the Law of* God, *and the Law of the* King (though he could not prove it) but bid them break up their Meeting, and he would pass it by for that time: So the next First-day, the Priest having been at a Gossoping Feast, and being elevated with Strong Drink, and Tobacco, he clapt some of his Companions

on

on the Shoulder, and bid them go along with him; so he came to the Meeting, and catcht hold of a sober Womans Arm, and said, *Mr. I will begin with you*, shewing much Violence towards her, bruising her Arm, that it was Black and Swelled, and Tore her Coat out of the gathers; and then fell upon other Women, Pulling them in a wicked manner, so that he hurt an Antient Woman, and tore another Womans Wast-coat, and caused the Children to cry out, His actions were more liker a mad Bull then a sober Man; then he fell upon the Men, till he had wearied himself, and then threatned what he would do: So he went to *Oxford*, and instigated (one called Justice *Fell*) by his false Reports, and procured a special Warrant; so three of the Friends were carried before the said Justice, who fined *Tho. Gilpin* the Owner of the House, where the Meeting was, twenty Pounds; the rest five Shillings a piece, and gave the Constables Warrants to distrain their Goods; so they took from one, for five shillings, a Pot and a Kettle, which cost fifteen shillings; and also took an account of all the Goods they could come at, but thinking it might not reach the twenty pound, they let them stand till they received further order: The same Justice sent Warrants for five more of that Meeting, whom he fined five shilling a piece. The Priests name is *Robert Copput*, who in his Sermon, at a certain time, told the People, *That though the Kings Laws were repugnant, or contrary to the Law of God, yet they ought to be obeyed and submitted unto.*

Northamtonshire.

W *Ellingborrough*, the 13th of the 4th Moneth 1670. the Account is thus, That some dayes by past the wicked Rulers Agents came and strained from *Tho. Olive* sixty pound worth of good Cloth at one time, and had Orders to take twenty pounds from *Fra. Ellington*, but forbore in regard of a deed of sale for the security of his Creditors, &c. The Friend shewed them what he had reserved, but they would not then take it, but desired him to go with them to the Justice, who is a great

Perſecutor, and when he ſaw the Deed, he boaſted, and ſaid, *It would do the Friend no good*, who anſwered him, That if the late Act had not fruſtrated all Law of *England*, my Councel ſaid, I might ſell my Goods to whom I pleaſed; ſo he bid the Conſtables forbear until he had ſent up to *London*; and asked the Conſtables, *Whether they had taken enough from* Tho. Olive? They ſaid, They thought they had: He ſaid, *Be ſure you take enough, and more, that ſo there may be twenty pound for the* King, *twenty pound for the* Poor, *and twenty pound for the* Informer; *and if you take Goods enough, then of the reſidue*, You *ſhall have one Part, and I will have the reſt*: They anſwered him, That they would never receive a Penny upon that account. Alſo one *Elverton* Knight and Burgeſs for *Northampton*, ſaid the ſame words to the Conſtables. They alſo took ſeven Beaſts from another Friend, dwelling near; and from another Friend one hundred and ſixty Paſture Fleeces, and moſt of his Braſs and Pewter; and from another they were ordered to ſtrain for ſeven pound fifteen ſhillings; and from another as much, who being a Widdows Son, and having nothing in poſſeſſion, the Warrant was returned to the Iuſtice, who ſent the Conſtable back again with a Command to take his Clothes; another Friend was ſtrained for twenty five ſhillings; another for forty pound; and another for twenty pound; beſides divers for five ſhillings; and ten ſhillings apiece; alſo two more were ſtrained for eight pound apiece, and one for twelve pounds: Theſe laſt, a perticular account of what Goods were taken from them; for the ſaid Fines, is not yet ſent up. The Biſhop of *Peterborrough* viſited at *Rowell* the laſt Week, and there ſaid openly in the Maſs-Houſe (after he had given every Officer a Charge to be diligent to put the late act in Execution) he ſaid, *That it had done the Work already of all* Phanaticks *(but only the* Quakers*)* but he ſaid, *That when they met again* (meaning the Parliament) *they would make a ſtronger for them; they would get a Law made, to take away all their Lands, and Goods, and then they ſhould all be ſold for Bond-Slaves.*

Bedfordſhire.

Bedfordshire.

UPon the 15th of the Moneth called *May*, *Tho. Dyer* Barber in *Woburn*, informed the Officers of *Woburn*, that there was a Meeting at *Wil. Albrights*, in the said Town; upon which the Officers repaired to the place, and called for the said *Albright*, who come to them, the Officers said, *Tho. Dyer* sent them to take the Names of those met in his House, but did not come into his House, neither knew who was there; but *Dyer* the Informer, next morning went to Justice *Charnocke*, at *Sawford*, and the Officer followed him, & together gave in the names of such persons as they supposed to be at the Meeting, with a Speaker unknown, for indeed there was none that day; whereupon the Justice aforesaid granted a Warrant, in which *Wil. Albright*, the Master of the House, was fined twenty pound ten shillings, for his House, himself, and his Wife; and the supposed Speaker twenty pound, to be levyed amongst them all, as by the Warrant following appears.

Bed. ff. *To all the Constables, Church-wardens, and Over-seers of the Poor of* Woburne, *to either, or any of them.*

Whereas the Persons here under written, have contrary to the late Act of this present Parliament, met at a Conventicle, at Woburn *aforesaid, and do stand convicted thereof by the Oaths of two or more Witnesses, that the said persons under-written did meet under pretence of Religion, at the House of* Wil. Albright *of* Woburn *aforesaid, upon the* 15th *day of this instant* May, 1670. *to the number of above four Persons besides the Persons usually residing in the Family of the said* Wil. Albright; *These are therefore, in his Majesties Name, to command you, or either, or any of you, upon the Sight hereof, to demand of the several Person under-written, the several Sums set upon them, they being according to the said Act fined.*

Imprimis, Wil. Albright, *for permitting the said Conventicle at his House, the sum of twenty pound.* Wil. Albright, *for being present at the same Conventicle, five shillings. The Wife of the said* Wil. Albright,

Albright, *for being present at the same Conventicle, the sum of five shillings. For the Speaker, whose Name cannot be known, fined twenty Pound, to be levied upon all that were present at the same Conventicle. The Wife of* Francis Coleman, *for being at the same Conventicle, five shillings.* Sarah Baker, *for being at the same Conventicle, five shillings.* Thomas Sinfeild, *for being at the same Conventicle, five shillings.* Mary Sanders, *for being at the same Conventicle, five shillings.* Robert Gurny, *for being at the same Conventicle, five shillings.*

Note, Though there was no Speaker at this Meeting, yet the Informer supposing their was a Speaker, it seems it was sufficient for the Justice to fine the Meeting twenty Pound, as appears by this Warrant.

And if the said Persons do upon demand refuse to pay you the several sum or sums of Money, by fine set upon them, that you and every of you leavy the same upon the Offenders Goods and Chattels, the said several sum or sums of Money by distress, Sale of the said Offenders Goods, returning the overplus, &c. Given under my Hand and Seal this 16th day of May, 1670.

St. John Chernoke.

But about two or three weeks after, the said Justice, called Sir *Saint John Chernoke* of *Sawford*, sent his Servant, *John French*, with another Warrant, and some time after a third Warrant; all differing one from the other, as by the said Warrants may appear; all which Warrants are in hand received, but for brevity sake are omitted, and the Fines altered at his pleasure, *Notwithstanding, being once set, the Act calls it a Record.* The said Justice one day after sent for the said *Albright* to the Informers House, asking, him if such and such persons were at the Meeting, but *Albright* refused to be an Informer, the Justice fined him Ten Pounds more, saying, *If you will not confess there was a Speaker, I will suppose there was one*: *Albright* replyed, It seems I must suffer upon supposition: But afterwards the said Justice altered that Fine, and laid five pound of it on *George Galsey*, for which his Sheep were distrained; but that distress also was afterwards declined, application being made to the Justices by some of *Galseys* Friends; whereupon the said Justice takes off the Fine of five pound

pound from *Galsey* for the ſuppoſed Speaker, and layes it upon *Tho. Fraile*, who was not at the Meeting that day, and certifies to Juſtice *Stafford*, in the County of *Berks* where *Frail* dwelt; but Juſtice *Stafford*, being a Perſon of Diſcretion, returned the Certificate, as we are credibly informed, ſaying it was more then the ſaid Juſtice *Chernoke* could do; whereupon the ſaid Juſtice *Chernoke* impoſed the ſaid fine again upon *George Galſey*, and then *Galſey* was diſtrained by his Hay-cock: and upon ſuſpition that there was a Speaker (where indeed there was none) *Wil. Cook* of *Bowbrik*-Hill was fined ten pound, and diſtrained by Cart, Hay, Houſhold-ſtuff, and other Goods, the value uncertain. *Robert Gurney* had taken from him, for the ſaid Meeting a Kettle, valued at eight ſhillings, for a Fine of five ſhillings. *Mary Sanders* ſix Pewter Platters, valued at twelve ſhillings, for a Fine of five ſhillings, ſome of them being her Mothers, who receives Collection of the Town.

Upon the 6th, 8th, and 9th of the 6th Moneth, called *Auguſt*, 1670. one *Bumſtead* (called a Bumbaily) came to the Houſe of the aforeſaid *Wil. Albright*, with *Fra. Seare*, *Rich. Gaiſley*, *Wil. Timnis*, and *Edw. Gaile*, and others; and by force of ſeveral Warrants from the aforeſaid Juſtice *Chernoke*, for twenty ſix pound ten ſhillings, for Fines, for two Meetings at his Houſe, *viz. Albrights*; no diſtreſs as yet being taken for the firſt Meeting at his Houſe, by reaſon the Officers durſt not break open Locks and Doors, which now they did by violence, and carried away diverſe parcels of Timber hewed and unhewed, with his Screene, being an Oatemeal-Maker, and his Buſhel, with Oates and Oatemeal, and ſeized his Mill, and took away thirty Quarters of Mault, that was none of his, he only made it for another man; and they ſeized a Rick of Oates, valued at about twenty pound, that was alſo before diſtrained for Rent, due for ſome Ground that he hired; the whole ſum that was taken and ſeized, vallued between Seventy and Eighty Pounds, for Twenty Pounds Ten Shillings Fine. Alſo *Mercy Cartwright* fined ten pounds for the poverty of the ſaid *Albright*, for the ſecond Meeting at his Houſe, in ſilence alſo: Likewiſe *Tho. Harvey* of *Wovenden* fined ten pound for the poverty of the ſaid *Albright*, a Warrant being out for it, but not yet diſtrained; as alſo for

ſeveral

several considerable sums more, but as yet unknown for what; but these following were taken away by *Edward Gaile*, and the Officers aforesaid, *Bumbstead*, the Bumbaily, being Informer for this last silent Meeting, who brags he shall be worth 20 l. upon it, there being about twenty persons in all at the Meeting, *viz.* From *Sarah Baker*, a poor antient Widdow (upon the 13th of the 6th Moneth 1670.) one Table, two Buffet-Stooles, all her Pewter, with Fire-shovel, Tongs, Andirons, Warming-Pan, one Skellet with Milk in it for two Poor Sick Children, which they threw away, all for fifteen shillings Fine, leaving nothing in the House below but an old Chair. *Robert Gurney* had taken from him, a Hovil of Wood, valued at thirty shillings, for a Fine of ten shillings: The same day *Francis Ireland*, a great Kettle, valued at ten shillings, four Pewter Platters, one Pewter Pot and Cup, valued at one pound two shillings, for a Fine of ten shillings; all taken away by *Edward Gaile*, Warden, who was so drunk when he did it, that he could not find one Shop Door; about the middle of the day; *Francis Seare* joyned with him and others; the said Justice *Charnock* encouraged *Bumbstead*, the Informer and Bumbaily to go on, and take enough, and he could not do amiss, saying, *They might take a Hundred pound for Twenty pounds, and sell it, and bring him the Money, for his Clark must have some of it for his pains*: To which some of the Officers answered, *There was good reason for it*: The Justice said, *They might take the more, because but few would buy the Goods*: As if because the Act seems to allow one to pay for anothers fault; the said Justice will have them to pay also for the peoples dis-affection to the work.

Upon the 22th day of the third Moneth, *Edward* and *Francis Negoose*, Informers, came to the House of *Thomas Sutton* of little *Stanton*, and after the Meeting was ended went to Justice *Gery*, and one *Gajus*, Esquire, of *Euton*, of whom they procured a Warrant to the Constables of *Keiso*, *John Shepheard*, and *Humphry Richards*, who distrained two Cows from *John Bullock*, valued at seven pound, for a Fine of four pound five shillings: Two Cows from *Wil. Laman*, valued at six pound five shillings, which Cows *John Shepheard* bought, being Constable: And they took one Kettle from *Wil. Metcalf*, valued at eight shillings, for five shillings.

shillings: From *Mary Read*, a poor Woman, a Pottage-Pot, worth about twelve shillings, for five shillings: From *Tho. Sutton* aforesaid, three Cows, three Kettles, six pair of Sheets, a Table and Cupboard, valued at fifteen pound, for a Fine of ten pound, for having a Meeting in his House, being a poor labour man. Several poor People for being at the Meeting, were distrain'd to the value of 40 s. whose Names are unknown; all which Goods were taken away about the 9th of the 4th Moneth, 1670. For the same Meeting was taken from *Robert Rotham* of *Rizley*, six Cows by the Officers, valued at fourteen pound, for ten pound five shillings, being a Fine for a Speaker; the Cows were several times profered to sale, with the four Cows before mentioned, but could not be sold at either Fair or Market. *Richard Laundey* of *Bauldenhurst*, distrained upon the 10th of the 4th Moneth (70.) for being at the aforesaid Meeting, by the Officers of the said Town, *Alexander Nevill* Constable, *William Lavender* Overseer, *Tho. Robinson*, *Luke Clark* Wardens, by eight Quarters of Wheat seven Bushels, valued at fourteen pound, for a fine of ten pound for the Speaker, and five for himself, which Wheat was at *Bedford* Marker to be sold, but none would buy it; all the Officers aforesaid being very unwilling to ruin their Neighbours, except the Justices and Informers only.

Upon the 22th of the third Moneth, there came five Persons, habited like Souldiers, into the House of *Wil. Richardson* near *Tury*, whose Names were, *Christopher Theed*, *John Pilkinton*, *Wil. Curtis*, the other unknown; they desired the Names of some persons that were walking in his House, there being then nothing like Religious Exercise, but only some of his Friends walking up and down his Hall, and as the Informers confessed themselves, *They did not think they were doing any such thing*: Yet, upon the Information of these five persons, who neither saw nor heard any thing more, then found persons walking up and down the House as aforesaid; was the said *Richardson*, Mr. of the House, distreined by an hundred and sixty Fleeces of Wool, valued at twenty pound, and sixteen Pewter Platters, and one Pewter Flaggon and Candle-stick, one great Iron-Hook, two pair of Andirons, valued at twenty three pound ten shillings, by Warrant from one *Wil. Foster*, and three others called Justices, for

a Fine upon him for a Meeting at his Houſe, at the time aforeſaid. Taken from *Matthew Beadles*, three Pewter Platters, vallued at eight ſhillings, for Five ſhillings, for being preſent at the Houſe aforeſaid: And from *Sam. Wharton*, for the ſame cauſe, three Pewter Platters, worth eight ſhilling, for five ſhillings.

Upon the 29th of the ſame Moneth, *John Williamſon* and *Tho. Underwood* Informers, came to the Houſe of *James Taylor* at *Hardwick*, who informed *John Ventreſſe*, called Juſtice, who went himſelf to the Meeting with Armed Men; and when he had viewed the Meeting, he ſaid, *He knew three perſons there preſent of his Neighbours*, whom he ſaid, *Were all very Honeſt Men*: One of them replying, That if he knew them to be Honeſt Men, bid him to take heed what he did againſt them. Nevertheleſs ſhortly after, he ſent a Warrant to *John Haggis* and —— *Lilly*, Conſtables, who with the aſſiſtance of *Wil. Sam* and *Wil. Green* took away ſeven Cows and a drawing Ox, worth about forty pounds, for twenty pound fine, for having the ſaid Meeting at his Houſe; they were divers times proffered to ſale, but none would buy them, knowing upon what account they were taken away, till at length *Tho. Parker* of *Doxhills*, and *Tho. Bromſall* of *Biggleſworth*, late high Sheriff, bought the ſeven Cows, the Ox returnd again to *James Taylor*; what the Cows were ſold for is not certainly known, one third part ought to be given to *James Taylor*, becauſe he maintains all the Poor of the Pariſh (which is not yet done:) Taken from *Jo. Samm* of *Clifton* for the ſame Meeting, a Pottage-pot, worth forty ſhillings, for a Fine of ten ſhillings: From *Tho. Wiltſhire* of the ſame, a Hetchill, valued at fifteen ſhillings, for five ſhillings, being a very poor Hemp-dreſſor, and that the very Inſtrument by which he got his Living for himſelf and Family: From *Mordecai Suersby* of the ſame, a Kettle and a Pewter-platter, valued at ten ſhillings, for five ſhillings: From *Elizabeth Beadle*, three Kettles, valued at eight ſhillings, for five ſhillings, being very poor: From *Wil. Piſely*, a poor Weaver, having his Houſe burned juſt before, and nigh all his Goods, they took as many Weavers Tools as were valued at ten ſhillings, for five ſhillings. All theſe Diſtreſſes were taken by *Tho. Wyant* and *Michael Sam* Conſtables, and *Oliver Thodey* and *Joſeph Taylor* called Church-wardens, with *Iſaac Randle*

Randle and his Partner Over-ſeers. From *William Coſlin* of *Southil*, a Pewter-platter, valued at ſix ſhillings, and a Gun, valued at ſeven ſhillings, for five ſhillings: From *John Giddins* of *Henloe*, two Pewter-platters, valued at eight ſhillings, for five ſhillings: From *Benjamin Maſters* of the ſame, a Warming-pan, ſix ſhillings, for five ſhillings: From *William Sciller*, a poor man, four Joynt-Stooles, ſix ſhillings, for five ſhillings.

Upon the 26th of the 4th Moneth there came five or ſix perſons like Souldiers (one of them named *Richard Cooch*, the names of the reſt uncertain) to *Hardwick* aforeſaid, demanding the Names of the Perſons there met, but refuſed to ſhew any Authority for their ſo doing; after theſe, the high Conſtable, *John Haggis*, with *Michael Sam* of *Clifton*, *Oliver Spicer* of *Shefford*, *William Green* of the ſame, with other perſons came in a violent manner with a Warrant from Juſtice *Ventreſs* (ſo called) as they ſaid) but they refuſed to ſhew it to the ſaid *James Taylor*, but ſaid, *Come to the Seſſions, and you ſhall know by what Authority we take them away:* So they took five Horſes, valued at near ſixty pound, which they often proffered to ſale, but none would buy them, knowing upon what account they were taken away; at laſt, by the procurement of *Tho. Euſdine* of *Shefford*, where the Horſes were kept, they were diſpoſed of to *Wil. Carter* of *Biggleſworth*, Son in Law to the aforeſaid *Euſdine*, and to *Tho. Bromſel* of the ſame Town, late high Sheriff; and when *J. Haggis* Conſtable came to take the ſaid Horſes, he ſaid he had a Licence to Steal his Goods, *I can*, ſaid he, *Steal any Goods you have, either Horſes, Sheep, or Cows; for I have a Licence for it.*

On the 5th day of the 5th Moneth, *Wil. Feild* of *Statford* came to *William Phillipps* his Houſe of the ſame Place, with divers others, and took the Names of divers there met, and certifying the ſame to *Samuel Bedford* of *Henloe*, called Juſtice, who forthwith came to *Wil. Phillipps* his Houſe, and ſoon after ſent a Warrant to the Officers at *Statford* to diſtrein the ſaid *Phillips* for 20l. for ſuffering a Meeting at his Houſe, and took away from the ſaid *Phillipps* three Horſes, valued at 30l. and better, without ever calling the ſaid *Phillipps* to anſwer for himſelf; and from ſeveral others they took Goods for being at the ſaid Meeting.

York City.

THe 29th of the 6th Moneth, 1670. If the Lord do not put a ſtop to the proceedings there, ere long ſeveral, if not the moſt of Friends in that City, will be diſabled to continue their Callings, their Meetings being daily diſturbed, and Friends driven ſome one way, and ſome another by Conſtables and other Officers; and then the Red-coat Souldiers come and take the Names of Friends, partly by their own knowledge, and partly by the help of ſome of the baſer ſort of People of the City; and if it fall out that ſome Names they cannot get, then the Souldiers carry them to their main Guard, and there keep them Priſoners, &c. And when they had made their Liſt as large as they could, ſometimes putting in the Names of ſuch that were not at the Meeting that day (becauſe they uſed to be there) then they go to two Aldermen of the City, who commonly take all for Truth that they ſay and ſwear; Friends being not called before any called Juſtices, to ſpeak in their defence; or whether words were ſpoken, or not ſpoken at the Meeting, it is all one to them, for they go on to Fining, and granted a Warrant to levy twenty pound for a Womans Praying to the Lord; and other Fines are laid upon ſeveral, and Goods taken away, a perticular account of which is not as yet ſent up: They took from a Comb-Maker, and a Wheelright, or Turner, their very working Tools, and Diſhes: From another his Bedſtead and Curtains, having got moſt of what he had before: From another they have taken to his very Fire-rainge, Tongs, and Fire-ſhovel, and what elſe he had, though of never ſo ſmall a value: And finding Doors lockt (though there be ſufficiently enough, and more then ten times the Fine, that they might have come at) they threatned to break open the Doors, and that they muſt have the very beſt of the Goods, they had: One poor Friend had his Wives beſt Coat taken, worth about twenty ſhillings, and what elſe they liked, as a Pillow, a Pot, and a Pan, for five ſhillings. One Alderman *Richardſon* is the moſt violent Perſecutor in this City. It were

were too large to relate all their cruelty and unreasonableness; Apprentices and Girles, not fully sixteen years old, fined, and are a Prey to the ravinous Souldiers, and the Constables are bid to distrein and bring away what ever they find, if it were worth but six pence. One Alderman granted a Warrant against a Constable, because he would not take a Friends Cloak off his Back. Many more and great are the Sufferings of Friends in this Country, a particular of which is not as yet sent up.

Berk-shire.

Hallow Meeting, The 19th day of the 3d Moneth 1670. *Robert Lawrence* Constable, *Tho. Allen*, and *John Bosier*, came to the house of *Adam Lawrence*, where some Friends were met together, and then went and informed *Humph. Hide*, called a Justice, that they saw at the said Meeting nine persons, beside the Family, and supposed them to be Quakers, but they were all silent, and by a Warrant granted by *Humph. Hide*, *Robert Lawrence* Constable aforesaid, did break open two Doors, and took from the aforesaid *Adam Lawrence*, One Feather-bed, two Feather Bolsters, two Brass-pots, two Brass Kettles, one Skillet, one Coverlid, one Blanket, one Bolster case, one pair of Pothooks, and seven Cows, the 8th day of the 5th moneth 1670. And from *Richard Vokings*, for his wife *Jone*, for five shillings, they took one Brass Kettle: from *Wil. Adnum*, for his wife being fined five shillings, one Coverlid; *John Gerry* Constable took from *John willis*, for 5 s. one Brass Kettle: *Thomas Bush* of *Childey* took from *Tho. Clark*, for 10 s. for himself and his wife, being at a Meeting, on great Brass Kettle: *John Church* and *Tho. Smith* Constables of *Stanford*, took from *John Gerring*, one Brass Warming-pan, and one Brass Skimmer, for a fine of 5 s. for being at the Meeting.

These Goods were taken for a Fine of 20 l.

Uffington Meeting; By a Warrant given forth by *Hump. Hide*, called Justice, aforesaid, *John Stephens* of *Uffington* was brought before

before the said Justice, who demanded of *John*, What was the reason he kept Meetings at his House; *John* asked him, what Law he had broken, and where were his Accusers; *Hum. Hide* said, There were Accusers enough; but he could chuse whether he would bring them to *John*'s face or no: Then he called one *William Hore* (an Informer) and gave him his oath, whose Evidence was, that he saw five Quakers go by his Fathers door, and he thought they went to *John Stephens* his House, and some more he saw come out of the Town, which he thought had been there also; but the Justice said, all this is no proof; and said to *John*, Will you promise there shall be no more Meetings at your House, above four besides the Family; *John* told him, He would not suffer any unlawfull Meetings at his House; but could make no other Covenant: Than *Humph. Hide* read to *John* the *Oath of Allegiance*; and because for Conscience sake he could not swear, and break the Command of Christ Jesus; *Humph. Hide* made a Mittimus, and after some dayes sent him to the Goal, where he remains; a Copy of which here followeth.

Mark, the new Snare would not do.

Now the Persecutor flies to the old Snare that seldom fails them.

To the Keeper of his Majesties Goal at *Reading*, for the County of *Berks*, or to his sufficient Deputy, these.

I here send unto you the body of John Stephens of Uffington, *a professed Quaker, who for many moneths hath had great Meetings at his house; but the Officers of the Town, upon* Whitsundy, *the 22th of* May *last, set a Guard upon the house to keep the Company out, but they would not disperse, but congregated in the Street; and divers of them were streined, but none would buy their Goods; and upon Sunday the* 19th *of* June *last, he had another Meeting, of many People more; but some of the Officers not being at home, and some careless, the Meeting cannot legally be proved, although it appear probably to be so; and lest any more such Meetings should be there, I sent a Warrant for him, that he might promise not to have above 4. persons in that kind at his house, more then his own Family, which he refusing to do, I gave him five dayes liberty to consider of it, but no perswasions will operate, and he not being able probably to pay a fine of 20 l. I tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, which he*

he alſo refuſing, I commit him to your Cuſtody, that no Rebellion may be contrived in his houſe. Given under my hand and Seal this 4th day of July *1670. in the 22th year of our gratious Soverign Lord the King* Charles *the ſecond his Reign.*

Humphrey Hide.

Theſe following had Goods taken from them, for the aforeſaid Meeting at *Uffington* by *Hides* Warrant.

Tho. Sawyer Conſtable, *Rich. Ruſley* and *John Reynolds* Churchwardens, *James Sanders* Tything-man took from *Rich. Thatcher*, for a fine of 5 s. one Braſs Candleſtick, one Braſs Spice-morter, and two Pewter Platters. And from *Richard Ballard* they took three new Sythes worth 9 s. for a fine of 5 s. And from *Mary Johnſon*, one Feather Bolſter, and one ſheet for 5 s. Taken from *Clement Kent* of *Uffington*, two Braſs Kettles, for a fine of 5 s. *Anthony Perſon* of *Sinington* had taken from him, one Pot-Kettle, coſt 16 s. by Warrant from *John Early*, called Juſtice, executed by *Francis Kembal* Conſtable of *Stratton*, *Tho North* Churchwarden, *James Cook* Tythingman of *Sinington*: And they alſo took from *Tho. Ledbeter*, for the aforeſaid Meeting, one Braſs Pot worth 12 s. for a fine of 5 s.

Bracknel, The 17th of the 5th Moneth 1670. Friends being according to their uſual manner met together at *John Draggs* Houſe, there came in *William Weſt* Informer, with *Robert Dawſhe* Informer, and another aſſiſtant; one of them ſaid to the other, Here is none that ſpeaks, let us go our way; ſo they went forth, and in a little time went into the Meeting again, and the Informer ſaid, We had beſt take their names, and pluckt out of his pocket ſome ſmall Pears, and threw them down, and ſaid, Here is Pears, if Boys were here they would ſcramble for them, and laughed; ſo they took Friends names, and went and informed *Edward Sawyer* Knight, and Juſtice (ſo called) who gave forth a Warrant to diſtrein Friends Goods, although he confeſt there was no ſpeaking nor praying proved; and *James Gatts* Conſtable of *Binfield*, aſſiſted with two more, went to *John Fenwicks*, and demanded of him 5 s. for being at the ſaid Meeting, and *John Fenwick* refuſing to pay, they went away,

away, and two dayes after the said Constable assisted with *John Beldam* Churchwarden, and *Hugh Taylor* Tythingman, came again to *John Fenwicks* House, and climed over his Gate, and endeavoured to force the best Horse *John* had over the Hedge out of his Ground, and *Mic. Todd* Tythingman, and one *Serjeant* a Cobler stood ready to have it away, but being discovered and ashaed, the Constable went into *Johns* Stable, and took a pair of Harness, worth 11 s. for 5 s. and so like Thieves, they went back over his Gate again, greatly rejoycing in what they had done. And also they distreined from *John Cook* one Pewter-dish, and one Pewter-flaggon, worth about eleven shillings, for five shillings.

Winsor, For a Meeting at *Thomas Davie* his House in *Winsor*, *Richard Lyford* Constable, *Sam. Bennet* Warden, and *Moses Bush* Collector, took away from *Tho. Davie* Shoemaker, 119. pair of Shoes, 3. pair of new Bootes, and one hide of Leather dresst, for a Fine of 20 l. Distreined from *Richard Mash* 14. pair of Gloves, for a Fine of 10 s. And from *Tho. Cook* one Jack, for a Fine of 5 s. From *George Taylor*, his Rugg off his Bed, and one pair of Sheets, for a Fine of 5 s. From *Godfrey Redford*, one Kettle, two Pewter-dishes, and some other things, for a Fine of five shillings. From *George Ball* two pair of Shoes, for five shillings.

Lamborne Woodland, Upon the 29th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. *Wil. Seamour* and *John Austin* (Informers) came to *Bartholomew Mallams* House, where some Friends were met, together in the Fear of the Lord, according to their usual manner, and took Friends Names, which were seven besides the man of the House; so the Informers went to *Charles Pettiplace*, called a Justice, and informed him, who gave forth a Warrant to the Tythingman, to bring them before him, but when they came before him, he said little to them (except to *B. Mallam*) But a little time after the said Justice gave forth a Warrant to the Tythingman, *W. Panacker*, who took from *Bartholomew* nine Cows, for a Fine of twenty pound; and drove the Cows to two Markets but none would buy them.

Reading,

Reading, The 8th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. which was two dayes before the Act came in force, came *Michael Redding* Mayor and *Tho. Coates* Justice (so called) to the House of *Thomas Curtis*, where some Friends were met together, in the Fear of the Lord, according to their usual Manner, the Mayor said, *What have you never a Man amongst you*, there being not one man Friend then at the Meeting, being most in Prison; then they turned Friends forth, and there being one very antient feeble Woman, who for want of her Staff could not make so much haste, as the Mayor would have her, he said to her, *Get you along, you old deceitful Toad.*

The 15th of the same Moneth, the Mayor and *Tho Coates*, assisted with *Philip Newlan* Constable, and *John Austin* an Officer, came again to the Meeting, and the Mayor said, *Here is another the Company was last day; Where is your Preacher? What have you no Preacher?* And after some more discourse, they took Friends Names, and pulled them forth. And upon the 19th of the 4th Moneth, the Mayor and *Wil. Armorer* came to the meeting, *W. A.* said, *What are you all dumb? What do you meet here for?* A Friend replied, That they met upon no bad account, &c. And more was spoken to them to clear Friends Innocency from the late Act: And *W. A.* (according to his usual manner) had many unseemly Expressions, not fit here to be mentioned; so they took Friends Names, and turned them forth.

Upon the 3d of the 5th Moneth, 1670. *William Armorer* and *Tho. Coates*, assisted with *John Austin* an Officer, came to the Meeting, and there being one young Man, whose name is *Alexander Merrick*, to whom *W. A.* and *T. Coats* tendred the Oath of *Allegiance*, and because he could not for Conscience Sake towards the Lord Swear, and break the Commands of Christ Jesus, who saith, *Swear not at all*; this young Man was Committed to Goal, where he remains, and they took Friends Names, and turned them forth.

A Young Man committed to Goal for not Swearing.

And the 8th day of the 6th Moneth, 1670. *Phillip Newlan* and *John Wilder* Constables, and *Richard Bint* an Officer, came to the Goal, and asked for *Tho. Curtis*, who being at Dinner in

his Chamber, and the Door being lockt, *John Thorp* the Goaler, commanded his Turn-key *John Mowerly* to break it open, which he did; *T. Curtis* desired the Constables to shew him their Warrant, so they shewed him three Warrants, for 20 l. a piece, which Warrants were signed by the Mayor, *W. Armorer* and *T. Coutes*, Justices (so called) the substance of which was to this purpose, *viz. For that T. Curtis had wittingly and willingly suffered Seditious Conventicles at his house, and being convict of the same, &c.* To which he answered, That he did never suffer wittingly or willingly any such Seditious Conventicle or Meeting at his House, neither was he ever convict of the same; and after they had took an Inventory of his things, in his Chamber, they went their way.

And the 10th day of the 6th Moneth, 1670. *Philip Newland* Constable, & *W. Armorers* Foot-boy, came to *T. Curtis* his House in the Town, and opened the outward Door, and went into the House, and there being only a Servant-Maid at Home, the Constable told her, *He was come to seize the Goods*: The Maid told him, It was a hard thing, her Master and Mistress being both Prisoners, and absent, that they should come in that manner to seize the Goods: So *Newland* sent for *W. Armorer* and *R. Hussey*, and they being come, went all over the House, and viewed the Goods; *W. A.* said, *They must seize it all*: The Maid told them, It was a hard thing, that they should seize on that which was none of her Masters, but another mans: *W. A.* said, *He knew that well enough, but he would take it while it was there, and then let them try for it*: So they lockt up the House, and lockt out the Family, and carried away the Keyes (excepting the outward Door, of which they had not the Key.

The same day *W. Armorer*, accompanyed with the Mayor, *John Wilder* Constable, *Rich. Grover* the Town-Clark, *Nath. Tassel*, *Rich. Bint*, and one *James*, Officers, with several other Assistants, went to the House of one *W. Mills*, where one *James Smith* formerly dwelt, and caused *W. M.* to unlock the Doors, and *W. A.* and most of the others went in, and searched for Goods of *Tho. Curtises*, and finding none there, *W. A.* went to the next Door, where *John Worledge*, and several other Tenants dwelt, and the Door being shut, *W. A.* knockt to have it opened, but not being done,

door, imediatly sent to the Smiths for a Sledge to break it open, and having a Sledge *W. A.* himself, and *N. Tassell*, and *Bint*, endeavoured with the Sledge to break it open, but could not do it; then *W. A.* sent for the Smiths man, and threatned to send him to Gaol if he would not come, and break open the Door; To he came, and broke it open; and the next Tenement being a Widdow Womans, and she being afraid they would take away her Goods, kept fast her Door, which they broke open also, *W. A.* pretending to look after a Meeting, but it appeared otherwise; for after he had searched the House he went to *John Worledge* and his Wife, and asked them whether they had any Good of *Tho. Curtises*, who told him, They had none; and he caused them to fetch a Bible, and caused them to Swear *They had none of* Thomas Curtises *Goods*. And the next day, being the 11th of the same Moneth *Philip Newlan* Constable, assisted with *Geffry Pinnell* Officer, came to *Tho. Curtis* his House, having the Keyes, as aforesaid, went into the House, and took an Inventory of the Goods, and left them there, and the Keys also: And the next day being the 12th of the same Moneth *Philip Newlan* Constable, assisted with *Rich. Hussey*, *Nath. Tassell*, and ——*Pain* Officers, and *Geo. Blackman* the Bell-man, came again to *Thomas Curtis* his House, to fetch away the Goods aforesaid, but could not get a Cart to carry them; but they took three Porters, *viz. Richard Davis*, *Sam. Cox*, and *Richard Wild*, who carried away as followeth, *viz.* Two large Drawing-Tables, one large Cupboord-Table, one round Folding-Table, the Top of a large Square-Table, the Frames of two smaller Tables, six Turky-work Chairs, seven Leather-Chairs high and low, one great Cloth-Chair, two low Wrought-Chairs, two Wrought-Stools, five Leather-Stools, six Joynt-Stools, three great Chests, two great Presses to hold Clothes, five high Bedsteads, one Trundle-Bedstead, two Beds, two Bolsters, three Pillows, two pair of Sheets, two Arras-Coverlids,, two Rugs, one Blanket, and two suits of Curtains and Vallains: And several other things were inventoried, which that day would not permit them to carry away, but between the ninth and tenth hour at Night they left carrying, intending to come again another day, for the remainder that was left.

And the 16th day of the same Moneth, *W. Brewer* and *Phil. Newlan* Constable, came to the Meeting at *T. Curtis* his house, and pluckt Friends forth, and *W. A.* sent for a Smith, and threatned to hang Padlocks on the Door, & afterwards went into the house, and *T. Curtis* his Wife being there, she had some discourse with him, shewing how contrary to Law and reason it was for him to hang locks on the Doors, and to lock them out of their own private Dwelling-house, which they paid rent for; he granted that there was no Law for it, *But the King and Counsel*, he said, *were above all, and he had a Warrant from them, and he would do it*: And *T. Curtis* his Wife told them of their illegal and unjust proceedings against her Husband, and taking away the Goods which were none of theirs, but were left her by her Uncle for her supply: *W. A.* in discourse with *A. Curtis*, told her, *That he would not leave her a Cup to drink in*: And the Smith being fetcht *W. A.* caused him to put two Padlocks on two Doors, one of which lockt up two Rooms; and as he was going away he bid the Constable fetch away the remainder of the Goods, and the Brewing-Vessels, and Wood also, which were not in the Inventory; for the Brewing-Vessels were standing Goods belonging to the Landlady of the House; and accordingly the 18th of the same Moneth, *Philip Newlan* Constable, aforesaid, with *Noah Smith* an Officer, and *George Blackman* the Belman, Assistants, came to *Tho. Curtis* his house, and brought a Waggon to the door, in order to carry away the rest of the Goods, but they could not then get Porters to help them, but went about it themselves, and fetcht out a great Tub, and put it up into the Waggon, and went in for more; and there being a great Binn to put Corn or Meal in, which was very cumbersom and heavy, they laboured very much about it, and could not easily get it forth; and while they were labouring about the Binn, the Carter not being willing of that work, but rather willing to be gone, put the Tub out of his Waggon again, and drove away; and the Waggon being gone, and the Goods being cumbersom, and having no Cart to carry them, they went away again, and left the Goods as before, only the great Tub they left in the Street, and the Constable desired T. C's Maid to take in the Tub again.

And

And the 25th of the ſame Moneth *Wil. Armorer*, and *Edward Bolby*, called Juſtices, came to the Meeting, and turned Friends forth, and *W. Armorer* threatned to throw water on them, and went himſelf to *Daniel Semore*, near by, and fetcht a Bucket of Water himſelf to have done it; and then cauſed the Door to be nailed up, it being neither of the Doors before mentioned, on which the Padlocks were put.

And the 28th day of the 6th Moneth, 1670. *Wil. Armorer*, aſſiſted with *Philip Newlan* Conſtable, and one more, came to the Meeting, and *W. Armorer* cauſed ſeveral Buckets of Water to be fetcht, and ſaid to his man, *Throw whole Buckets full upon them*, which was done accordingly; and bid his man, *Go in amongſt them, and throw it in their Faces*, which was done, in a rude unchriſtian-like manner; inſomuch, that ſeveral of the Friends (being all women) were ſo wet, that they were fain to ſhift their Clothes; and Friends asked him, If he were not aſhamed of thoſe actions, which did not become a Juſtice, or words to that purpoſe; which he made light of, and ſaid, *He would promiſe them it ſhould be worſe next time*; and ſaid, *He would lay him faſt enough that brake open the Door, which he had nailed up*: So when they had thrown what water they would, they turned Friends forth.

Newbery. Upon the 15th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. being the firſt day of the week, Friends being met according to their uſual manner, there came three Officers, in a turbulent manner, and uſed many words to prove the Meeting convictable by the late Act, which they could not do, (there being neither Preaching nor Praying, as could be proved) but one of the Officers ſaid, *He was ſure they met to worſhip God*; upon which they went away, and in a little time they came again, with the Mayor, and one Juſtice, who cauſed Friends to be pulled forth, and turned into the Street, and their names taken, which was accordingly done.

The 22th of the ſame Moneth, ſeveral Officers came again to the Meeting, and *Thomas Wilſon* Mayor, and a Juſtice, and a Lawyer with them, and they urged ſeveral words to get ſomething from Friends what they met for, (the Meeting being ſilent) but when they could get nothing from Friends, where-

by

by to take advantage, they took Friends names, and charged the Officers to carry them forth, who pulled and haled Friends down Stairs, (it being in an upper Room) and put them forth.

The 12th of the 4th Moneth, 1670. Friends were kept out of their House, and met in the Street, and the Mayor, and Justice, and other Officers came, and took six Friends, and sent them to Prison, some of them to the *Town-Hall*, and some to the *Counter*, and pulled and haled the rest in the street, in a rude and unchristian like manner.

And the 10th of the 5th Moneth, 1670. Friends being kept out in the Street by a Guard, there came a Constable, and the Mayor and Justice pulled and haled Friends, and threw their Hats about the Street, and into the Kennel, and punch'd and abused Friends; and pluckt one woman down, and dragg'd her along the Street, and made a hooting noise at it, as if they had been driving Hoggs; and the Justice (so called) said, *Draw her into the Kennel*; and so in a wicked manner abusing Friends, until they had wearied themselves; and Friends keeping their Meeting after the Mayor and his Company were gone, the Mayor sent a Warrant by the Constable, and others, to carry six of them to Prison, where they remained in Custody above twenty four hours without Examination, or any thing laid to their charge.

The 13th of the 6th Moneth, 1670. the Officers came with a Warrant, given forth by the Mayor and Justice, to distrein Goods for a Meeting, the 15th day of *May* 1670. who took away, as followeth, *viz.*

From *Robert Wilson* as much Flax as was judged to be worth 30 s. for a fine of 10 s. for him and his Wife. From *Thomas Marsh*, goods worth above 5 s. for 5 s. and coming to *Richard Hutchings* his house to distrain; *Jonas Norway*, called Churchwarden said, to *Richard*'s wife, *Come, you Whore you, I am come for your Goods, for your being at a Conventicle at* R. Wilsons *the 15th of* May; *and you are the brazen fac'd Whore that was drawn down Stairs, &c.* so they took from him woollen yarn, worth 15 s. they took also from *Joh. Whittick* one Sheep worth 6 s. 8 d. for 5 s.

And because the Meeting useth to be in silence, and no preaching nor praying proved, they have been somewhat at a stand

a stand to proceed on the Act, and so have proceeded another way, viz.

By a Warrant given forth by the Mayor, and Justice, *Jonas Norway*, called Churchwarden, distreined from *R. Hutchins*, one Kettle worth about 6 s. for two first dayes neglect (as they call it) and not coming to the Steeple-house: And also distreined the same day from *John Child*, for the same cause, one Spit, and one pair of Tongs; and as *Jonas Norway* was carrying it away, a woman in the Street askt him, If he lackt a Spit to roast his Meat? he said, *Yes, and to roast you too, if you don't have a care*: these Goods last mentioned were taken the 1st of the 5th Moneth, 1670.

Surrey.

Kingston upon *Thames*; The 12th of the 3d Moneth 1670. Friends being assembled at their usual meeting place, to wait upon the Lord, and to worship him, there came in *Thomas Saunders* Constable, and *Tho Gally* Headborough, and took the names of as many Friends as they thought fit: And on the 15th day of the same Moneth, *William Garner*, and *Charles Brown* Headboroughs, kept Friends out of their Meeting, and the two Bailiffs *Caleb Westbrook*, and *Robert Atkinson*, and other Officers of the Town came to the Yard where Friends stood, and caused them to be haled and pulled out of the Yard, and to be thrust out into the Street, threatning of them, and a Friend standing up to declare a few words, *Westbrook* the Bailiff caused him to be pluckt down, and committed him to the Goal, and afterward fined him 20 l. and released him. On the 19th of the 3d Moneth, being the 5th day of the week, *Tho. Saunders* Constable, and *J. Watson* Steeplehouse-warden, only, took as many Friends Names as they pleased: But on the 22th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. being the first day of the Week, the Baliffs ordered two Watch-men to keep Friends abroad in the Street, where a Friend Speaking to the People, *R. Atkinson* one of the Baliffs in a raging manner, pluckt him down, and sent him

Priso-

Priſoner to the Conſtables Houſe, afterwards came both the Baliffs, and took *John Stevens* and *Henry Penfold*, and ſent them both away Priſoners, and being brought to the Town-Hall before the Baliffs, and though there was nothing publickly evidenced againſt them, neither were publickly convicted of any Crime, yet the Clark ſet down as a Record, That they were fined the one 40 l. and the other 20 l. as afterwards appeared; but would not grant them a Copy of what he writ; neither had they any lawful Tryal, or Liberty to defend themſelves; and indeed, moſt of the Goods, which have been taken from Friends, an account of which follows, have been for Fines impoſed without any legal Conviction, or being ſo much as ſent for before the Baliffs, nor have not known any thing of any Fine, untill the Spoylers have come with a Warravt to take their Goods.

Note, *Which the Law of the Land doth allow of, That every man in his own Caſe ſhall make his own Defence, and no man ſhall be Fore-judged or Condemned without his Cauſe being heard, and without a Fair and Legal Tryal.*

And when Friends have been kept out of their Meeting-room, Capt. *Ed. Brett*'s Souldiers have come, and brought Sticks, and Struck Friends in a cruel manner, and Puncht them with their Carbines on the Breſts and Backs, *Chriſtopher White* they Puncht on the Breſt ſo that the Blood burſt out of his Noſe; and ſeveral others they Puncht and Beat, ſo that they were ſore a great while after; and one received ſuch a cruel Blow on the Head and Shoulders that it made him reel, and was ſcarce able to ſtand. And it has been the Souldiers practice (Meeting after Meeting, as conſtantly as Friends met) to come and beat and punch Friends in a cruel and barbarous manner, a particular account of which will be too much to inſert in this Book; ſo take a ſhort account of the Havock and Spoil they made of Friends Goods in *Kingſton*, upon the account of this laſt Act.

The 8th of the 4th Moneth, 1670. Taken by *John Waiſon* and *Wil. Wakelin* Steeple-houſe-Wardens, *Rob. Siggins*, *Rich. Moſſe*, from *John Feilder*, for a Fine 20 s. for two ſecond Offences (ſo called) for his Wives being at two Meetings to wait upon the Lord,

Lord; Four Buſhels and a half of Wheat-Meal, at 19 s. 6 d. three Buſhel and ſeven pound of Wheat-Flower, at 6 s. 8 d. *per* Buſhel, 1 l. 10 d. two Sacks, 5 s. in all 2 l. 5 s. 4 d.

Taken more from him by *Ben. Woodfould* Headborough, for a Fine of 5 s. ſet upon his Wife, 7 s.

The ſame men took from *Wil. Hard*, for the ſame cauſe, Shoes worth 1 l. 3 s.

The ſaid *J. Watſon* and *W. Wakelin*, by the aſſiſtance of *Charles Brown* Enſigne, and ſome Souldiers with him, who under a pretence to ſearch for Arms, took from *Chriſtopher White*, a poor man, two pair of Sheets worth about 20 s. for a Fine of 10 s. for being at the Meeting.

The ſame men the 25th of the 3d Moneth, for 20 s. fine impoſed on *Stephen Hubbard*, for the ſame cauſe, took from him five Pewter-platters, one Pewter-plate, one Pewter three-pint-pot one pair of Bootes.

And about the beginning of the 4th Moneth, *Rob. Norman* Headborough took from the ſaid *Steph. Hubbard*, twenty five pair of Shoes, worth about 4 l. And about the latter end of the ſame Moneth, *Ben. Woodfould* aforeſaid, took two pair of Shoes, worth 6 s. 6 d.

About the Middle of the 5th Moneth, *Tho. Edmonds* Headborough, took, or cauſed to be taken, from the ſaid *Steph. Hubbard*, forty five pair of Shoes, three pair of Bootes, and ſeven ſides of Sole Leather, worth about 13 l. for a Fine of 20 l. impoſed on him for the Meeting-Room.

The 10th of the 4th Moneth, *Charles Brown* Enſigne aforeſaid, and ſome Souldiers with him, came and broke open *Tho. Gennings* his Houſe, under a pretence to ſearch for Arms, the Door being broke open, *Watſon* and *Wakelin* aforeſaid entred in, and began to ſeize upon the poor mans Goods, and took Braſs and Pewter to the value of 1 l. 10 s. for a Fine of ten ſhillings, for meeting to Worſhip God.

The 8th of the 4th Moneth, *Woodfould* aforeſaid took from *Fra. Holden*, for a Fine of 5 s. one *Cheſhire* Cheeſe.

And the 29th of the ſame Moneth, *Rob. Norman* Headborough, took from the ſaid *Francis Holden*, for a Fine of 9 l. impoſed on him, by reaſon of the diſabillity (as was ſuppoſed) of *John*

 Stevens,

Stevens, who was fined 20 l. for speaking in a Meeting, though it was sufficiently known, and he had declared to them that he was able; they took 22. yards and a half of Cloth, 23. yards and a half of other course Cloth, 34. Ells of Lockrum, 36. pair of Stocking, 11. yards and a half of *Scotch*-Cloth, 12. Ells of Dowlas, 21. Ells of course Cloth, 14. Yards of course Cloth, 16. pair of Drawers, 1. new Sack, 1. pair of Trowsers, 2. remnants of Ticking, 18. pair of Bodice; in all to the value of 14. or 15 l.

About the 6th of the 5th Moneth, *Wil. Garner* Headborough, took from the said *F. Holden*, for a Fine of 5 s. for meeting, one pair of Drawers, two Frocks, one Shirt, all worth thirteen shillings.

The 13th of the 4th Moneth, *Woodsonld* aforesaid took from *John Hollis*, for 5 s. one Brass Pot, and one Brass Kettle. And from *Wil. Perry*, for 5 s. he took a pair of Andirons. And *Watson* and *Wakelin* took from him, 5. Pewter-dishes, 1. Three-pintpot, and 1 Quartpot.

And because *John Feilder* aforesaid refused to open his Door to *Tho. Sanders* Constable, without he shewed a Warrant; the said *Sanders* broke open the Door, but finding no body there, he went to the Baliffs, and soon after came again with *Rob. Bonns* Corp. of a Troop of Horse of Capt. *Britts* Company; and they would have gone up to search the House, but *John* was not willing except they shewed a Warrant or break open the Door, then they shewed a Warrant, which was, *To search for a Meeting upon Information at the* Hand in Hand, *or any other House*: *John* told them, That Warrant concerned him no more then it did Bailiff *Westbrooks* House, and by that Warrant they might as wel break up all mens Houses in the Town as his: And said, That if that Warrant were Law, we were now in *England* in a poor Condition; for we were as safe in the High-way as in our own Houses, when every Fellow when he pleaseth shall break up our Houses, and search them at their pleasures: And the Corporal gave several threatning Speeches to the said *John Feilder*, saying, *Sirrah, if you come up I will break your Neck down again*: And threathed, *He would rub his Rogues Bones*: And held up his Stick at him, and said, *Sirrah, I will Pick your Teeth*: With many such like wicked Expressions,

ſions, and at laſt the Conſtable came down & found no body, & ſo they went away—*Oh! the ſad Condition of the poor people of* England.

Walton, The 5th of the 4th Moneth, Friends being peaceably met at the houſe of *Tho. Biſhop* Tanner, and though never a word were ſpoken yet *Tho. Brent*, called Juſtice, *Giles Rowles*, *John Raby*, and *Tho. Clerk*, and others, Officers of the ſaid Town, pluckt the men Friends out one by one, and *Rowles* & *Raby* ſwore againſt *T. Biſhop* for having the Meeting in his Houſe, for which he was fined 20 l. for which *Tho. Clark*, *John Sanders*, *John Raby*, *Henry Rogiſton*, *Giles Rowles*, and *Tho. Brent*, took theſe Goods following, 5. Beds, 6. Bolſters, 3. pair of Sheets, 8. Blankets, 5. Pillows, 3. Pillowbers, 1. Coverlid, 2. pair of Breeches and Dublet, and a Coat and Waſtcoat, 6. Coats Womens and Childrens, and 3. Waſtcoats, a riding Safe-gard and Hood, 5. Stockings, and a pair of Boothoſe tops, a Blanket, and a night Waſtecoate, part of a Cheſt of Drawers, a Kettle, 3. Platters, 11. buſhels of Maſlin, 3. Sacks, 5. Sides of ſole Leather, 2. Geldings and a Sadle.

Note, *This Friend hath a Wife, and ſeven ſmall Children, and theſe Goods are valued by Friends to be worth about Forty Pounds, and they left them ſo bare, that they were fain to lie upon Mats.*

Alſo in the ſame Pariſh, they took a Spade and a Kettle, worth about 12 s. from a poor Day-labouring-man, for being at the Meeting at *Tho. Biſhopps*, whereby the poor man was diſabled to go to work to maintain his Charge, having three ſmall Motherleſs Children, ſo that he was forced to carry the youngeſt, being a ſucking Child, to them that took away his Goods, and left it there for them to keep, which they being troubled with, were forced to bring both Child and Goods back again.

Rygate, Theſe Friends following had Goods taken from them, for being at a Silent Meeting, at *John Blotts* in *Rygate* Pariſh, the 19th of the 4th Moneth, 1670.

Tho. Blott of *Rygate* Chandler, was fined 10 s. for himſelf and his Servant *Suſan Brooker* being at the ſaid Meeting, had taken from him 4. five-buſhel Sacks.

Rowly Titchborn of *Rygate* Shomaker, for himſelf and his Wife being at the ſaid Meeting had 3. pair of Shoes taken from him.

John Hatcher had two pair of Shoes taken from him, for 5 s.

Richard Hatcher had Leather taken from him worth 7 s. for 5 s.

Theſe aforeſaid Goods were diſtrained (by Warrant from *Roger James* called a Juſtice) by *Wil. Roſe* and *Thomas Lymden* Conſtables, *Geo. Dudley* Warden, and *Rich. Holmes* Overſeer of the Poor.

Anthony Shepherd, for a fine of 5 s. had 5 Pewter-diſhes taken from him worth 15 s.

Edmond Moor, for a fine of 15 s. for himſelf, Wife, and Servant, being at a Silent Meeting at *J. Blotts*, had ſeveral Houſhold-Goods taken from him.

Widdow *Glover*, for 10 s. fine, had Goods taken from her to the value of 20 s. part of the Fine being for *Stephen Stone*.

Rich. Allingham, for 10 s. fine, had Goods taked worth 20 s.

John Blott Tanner, for a Fine of 20 l. impoſed on him by the ſaid *Roger James*, for having a Meeting in his Houſe, had 23. backs of Sole Leather taken from him, to the value of 35 l. at the leaſt.

And the ſaid *John Blott* being pritty much impoveriſhed by their taking his Goods, the ſaid *Roger James*, and *Edward Thurland*, called a Juſtice, laid part of that Fine, by them impoſed on *John Blotts* Houſe, on other Friends that were at the Meeting: And *Rowley Titchborne* they fined 5 l. 2 l. for the Houſe, and 3 l. for himſelf and others being at the Meeting, and they took from him the Bed, Coverlid, Blanket, Bolſter, and Pillows with their Caſes, on which he lay, and 4 pair of Sheets. And from *Tho Blott* they took Goods worth 7 l. 10 s. on the ſame account. And from *John Hatcher* they took 2 pair of Shoes. And from *R. Hatcher* his Wives Shift, with other Linnen, & ſome Leather. And *Edmond Moor* they fined 9 l. 10 s. part for the houſe, and the reſt for his, and his Wife, and Servant being at the Silent Meeting at *John Blotts*, for which they took from him two Steers, and two Cows. *Thomas Moor* they fined 9 l. 10 s. part of which was for the Meeting being at *John Blotts* Houſe, and the reſt for his, and others being at the ſaid Meeting, and they took from him four Milch Cows, to the value of eighteen Pounds.

The

The Perſons diſtreining are *Wil. Roſe Tho. Lynden* Conſtables, *Geo. Dudney* Warden, *Rich. Holmes* and *John Steer* Overſeers, with *Anth. Beſt* Headborough.

The Perſons that took *Edmond Moors* Goods the laſt time are, *John Johnſon* Conſtable, *Zachary Hedge*, *Wil. Morgan* Headboroughs, *John Cuddington* Warden, *John Dudney* Overſeer.

The Perſons diſtreining *Tho. Moor* are, *John Woodman* Conſtable, *Wil. Ware*, *Tho. Lucaſt*, and *Rich. Bridges*.

Theſe Friends following were fined for being at a Meeting in the Street in Guilford, *being kept out of their Meeting-place, and had Goods taken from them.*

Guilford, *Henry Gill* of *Godalming* had a good Cow taken from him, worth 3 l. 15 s.

Stephen Smith of *Purbright*, for ſpeaking to the People in the Street at the ſaid Meeting, had 6. Cows and a Calf taken from him worth 24 l.

Caleb Wood of *Godalming* had three Buſhels and a half of Rye taken from him worth 10 s.

Rich. Dean had Goods taken worth 15 s.

Rob. Steadman of *Marrow*, for being at a Meeting at *Guilford* the 29th of the 3d Moneth, was fined 5 s. and had 5. buſhels and a half of Mault, and 2. Sacks taken worth 16 s.

John Bernard, for being at the ſame Meeting; they fined him for himſelf and 11. more, though the moſt of them were able to have paid; and for 3 l. 5 s. they took 9. new Pewter-platters, and a Flaggon which coſt 4 l. 10 s.

Wil. Hampton of *Compton* for 5 s. they took 11 s.

Henry Gill, for being at the ſame Meeting had Goods taken from him worth 1 l. 4 s.

Caleb Woods, for 10 s. fine had Goods taken worth 1 l.

Rob. Clinton, for 10 s. fine had Goods taken worth 12 s.

Henry Chandler, for 5 s. had Goods taken worth 12 s.

John Smith of *Warpleſdon* for having a Silent Meeting at his Houſe was fined 20 l. for which they took 9. Cows worth 30 l.

Wil Conſtable of *Hoſſel* was at the ſame Meeting, and was fined for himſelf 5 s. and five more at 5 s. a piece, for which they took from him a Mare worth 2 l.

Rich.

Richard Baker, for his Wife being at the ſame Meeting, had a Dripping-pan and a Spit taken worth 7 s.

Wil. Hampton of *Compton*, for being at a Meeting in *Guilford* the 24th of the 4th Moneth, was fined for himſelf 10 s. and 5 s. apiece, for 4 more was laid upon him, for which they took a Cow and a Calf, worth 3 l.

Henry Chandler of *Bramler* for 10 s. fine for himſelf, and Fines for 3. others laid upon him, had taken from him one Hogg and 3. Piggs, worth 1 l. 16 s.

Henry Gill, for a Fine of 10 s. for himſelf, and for 10 l. laid upon him for the Meeting-Houſe; they took from him 4 Cows and 2. Hoggs, worth about 14 l.

Robert Stedman, for a Fine of 10 s. for being at the ſame Meeting, and 3. more that were fined 10 s. a piece laid to him, they took 300. weight of Iron, worth about 2l. 8 s.

All theſe Goods before mentioned were taken away by Warrants from *John Windebanke* called a Juſtice, who watcheth all opertunities to ſpoil the Goods of the Innocent, who Fear God; and his proceedings are without Reaſon, or Law, or Equity, which ſhews his ſpirit to be below the ſpirit of a man, it being an Effiminate, Beggarly, Cowardly ſpirit (which ſeeks the hurt of them) who ſeek the peace and well being of all men, having deſerted all confidence in an Arm of fleſh, ſo have no carnal Weapons; But our truſt is in the Arm and Power of the Lord, who is over all forever.

And they have ſince taken from ſeveral Friends, for a Meeting in *Guilford*, Goods worth above 20 l.

And Friends in *Guilford* had taken from them Goods to the value of 4 l. 12 s. for a Meeting, which the Warrant from *Edw. Ford* Mayor, and *John Windebank*, ſaid was on the 22th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. in *Guilford*; when as they had no Meeting there that day.

A further Relation of the Sufferings in Guilford, *for meeting together to Worſhip God, is as followeth.*

Taken from *John Lee* the 22th of the 6th Moneth, 1670. Goods worth 12 s.

From *Robert Street*, Goods worth 12 s.

From

From *Tho. Passenger*, Goods worth 20 s.

From *John Remnant*, Goods to the value of 11. 18 s.

Taken from *John Cooper*, 4. Beds, 8. Blankets, 5. Bolsters, 5. Sheets, 3. Coverlids, and other Houshold-Goods to the value of 14 l.

Taken another time from *John Lee* aforesaid, Houshold-Goods to the value of 31 l. 14 s. 6 d.

Jacob Benbrick had Hats taken from him, for the same cause, to the value of 12 l. 18 s.

Anthony Crossfeild had Goods taken from him worth, 3 l.

The most of these Goods before mentioned were taken away by Warrant from *Edw. Ford* Mayor of *Guilford*, and *Rich. Simes* called Justice; and they two, and *Wil. Moor*, and *James G[illegible]n* called Justice (who of right had nothing to do to act in that free Corporation) came in the Night time into *John Lees* Freehold, and violently caused his Doors to be broken open, and caused his Goods to be carried away, to the grief and Disturbance of the Neighbourhood in such an unseasonable time.

They also in the Night time brake open five Doors of *Jacob Benbricks*.

A short Relation of the Barbarous and Inhumane Cruelties, inflicted of late on some of the People of God called Quakers, *at their Meeting at* Horsly-down, *in this County.*

ON the 25th of the 7th Moneth, 1670. Several of the aforesaid People, being peaceably assembled at their usual Meeting-place aforesaid, (not in Stubbornness, nor in contempt to Magistracy, nor Laws, but in tenderness of Conscience to God) There came in some Musketteers, and haled them forth into the Street, where the Troopers came, and rod in amongst them in a violent manner, beating and abusing both Men and Women, and punching them in the Faces and Bodies with their Carbines; and soon after the Foot-Souldiers came, and fell upon them also, and beat both Men and Women in a Cruel and Outragious manner, laid on, punching them on the

Feet

Feet with the But-ends of their Pikes and Muskets, till they broke ſeveral of them, alſo running the Muzzle of their Muskets with violence againſt the Bodies of many; and then came a Party of Horſe, who deſperately ſought to ride over them; but the Horſes being more merciful then their Riders, and not going forward, they turned their Horſes, and by curbing and reining them backward, ſtrove to do what miſchief they could. The number of thoſe that were Wounded, and ſorely Bruiſed, and had their Blood ſpilt this day were above twenty Perſons.

On the 2d day of the 8th Moneth, They being kept out of their Meeting-place aforeſaid, there came a Party of Foot, and a Party of Horſe, who laid on upon Friends in a violent and cruel manner, knocking them with their Muskets and Pikes, and the Horſe-men with their Carbines, until the Blood lay in the Streets; and ſo they continued for a long time until they brake ſeveral Pikes, and Muskets, and one Carbine; and ſeveral were ſo beaten and bruiſed, that their lives were in danger. They that were wounded, and ſorely bruiſed, this day were above thirty Perſon.

Again, The 9th of the 8th Moneth, The Souldiers, both Horſe and Foot, came to the Meeting at the aforeſaid Place, and one of them having a Shovel threw the Dirt and Mire on both Men and Women, in a ſhameful manner, and after him came both Horſe and Foot, and fell upon them, Striking and Knocking down, without reſpect to Age or Sect, in a very cruel manner, until they ſpilt the Blood of many; and when ſome of the Inhabitants in pitty took them into their Houſes, to ſave their Lives, the Souldiers forced open the Doors, and haled them into the Street again, and pluckt off their Hats, that they might ſtrike on their bare Heads, inſomuch that many had their Heads broken in a grievous manner, and thus they continued a long time; alſo tearing Men and Womens Clothes off their Backs, and haling Women through the Mire by their Horſe ſides; ſome of the Foot-Souldiers put up their hands under the Womens Coats, uſing unclean Expreſſions and immodeſt Behaviour; And a Red-coat Souldier ſtruck one Woman Friend twice with his Muſket on the Belly, and once on the Breſt, another flung Dirt in her Face; and ſince that, ſhe hath never been well, but

hath

hath Miscarried, these abuses being the cause of it, it hath been the Death of her Child, her Life being in great Danger: And a man Friend they abused with Blows, and afterwards took him, and carried him into the Meeting-place, being there, one demanded his Money, and endeavoured to rifling his Pockets, swearing, GOD DAM HIM, *he would* STAB *him, if he would not give it him*; swearing again, *He would* PISTOL *him*. The number of those that were wounded, and had their Blood spilt, and were sorely bruised this day were above fifty Persons.

And on the 16th day of the 8th Moneth, 1670. Being again kept out of their Meeting-place, there came a great Party of Horse and Foot, and would presently have fell on, upon them, had there not been Constables there, who for some time kept them off, but at last they broke out into a great rage, and some of the Foot with the But-ends of their Muskets, and the Horsemen with great thick Trunchins and Staves, laid on upon them in such a violent manner, as if they would have killed all in the place; and in a short time the Blood ran down about the Ears of many: And above twenty Persons received sore Wounds and cruel Bruises; and one of the Constables endeavoring to stop them from shedding Blood, and to keep the Peace, they fell upon him also, and broke his Head; and when they were rebuked of their cruelty, some answered, *If you knew what orders we have, you would say we dealt Mercifully with you.*

Nottinghamshire,

Richard Richardson of *Nottingham*, for being at a peaceable Meeting had Goods taken to the the value of about 9 l *Charles Moreland* of *Nottingham*, for being at the same Meeting, had Goods taken to the value of 12 l. *Thomas Highfeild* of *Nottingham*, for being at the same Meeting, had Goods taken to the value of 6 l. *Wil. Watson* of *Nottingham*, for his Wife being at the same Meeting, had Goods taken to the value of about 9 s. *Edward Poe* of *Nottingham*, for being at the same Meeting had Goods taken to the value of about 1 l. 3 s. 4 d. *John*

Marshall of *Nottingham*, for being at the same Meeting, had Goods taken to the value of 10 l. *Johne Oates* of *Nottingham*, had Goods taken worth 1 l.

The aforesaid Sums were distreined by Warrant from the Magistrates of *Nottingham*, not certainly known by whose Information; distrained by *John Arme*, and other Constables, *Tho. Rayner*, and other Wardens, *George Fellow*, and other Overseers.

Wil. Poole at *Lodge* in the *Woulds*, had several Goods taken, by which he suffered loss to the value of about 3 l. *Rowland Dawbnell* of *Corpwel*, had Goods taken at three several times, for being at Meetings worth 1 l. 6 s. *Henry Doubleday* of *Whatton*, for his Wife being at a Meeting, had Goods taken worth 1 l. And for his Wife being at a Meeting the second time, had Goods taken (for 10 s. Fine) to the value of about 6 l. *Wil. Clator* of *Elton*, for his Wife being at two several Meetings, had Goods taken to the value of 18 s.

The aforesaid Distresses were taken by Warrant from *Robert Peirpoint* of *Nottingham*: *Wil. Chamberlain* of *Bingham*, and his Son, Informers; distreined by *George Hargrave* Constable of *Elton*, *Wil. Blotherwith* Constable of *Whatton*, *Geo. White* Constable of *Cropwel*.

Timothy Garland of *Mansfeild*, for being at a peaceable Meeting, for 3 l. 5 s. demanded, had Goods taken to the value of about 5 l. *Rob. Moor* of the same place, for the same cause, had goods taken worth 4 l. 2 s. *Robert Grace*, of *Sutton*, in *Ashfield*, for 5 l. 5 s. demanded, had goods taken to the value of about 6 l. 8 s. *Richard Brandrith*, of *Sutton*, in *Ashfield*, for 5 l. 5 s. demanded, had goods taken to the value of about 5 l. 15 s. *Samuel Hooten*, of *Scekby*, for 4 l. demanded, had Goods taken to the value of about 5 l. *Geo. Cockram* of the same, for 2 l. 10 s. had taken to the worth of 3 l. *Mary Leadbeater* of the same, for a Fine of 5 s. had taken to the worth of 9 s. *Rich. Bingham* of *Mansfeild-Woodhouse*, for a peaceable Meeting being at his house, had Goods taken to the value of about 25 l. 15 s. Also for *Mary Sneden* of the same place, was 2 l. demanded, for which

which the Goods of *James Reynold*, who is not called a *Quaker*, was distreined, and the said *James* paid the Money. *Rob. Grace* of *Sutton* in *Ashfeild* had Goods taken worth 12 s.

These Distresses were taken by Warrant from *Arthur Stanhope* of *Mansfeild-Woodhouse*; *John Coston*, and —— *Scot*, Informers of *Mansfeild-Woodhouse*; distreined by *Rich. Thorpe* of *Mansfeild-Woodhouse* Constable, *Fra. Watson* and *John Turner*, Constables of *Mansfeild*, *John Ward* of *Sutton* Constable, *Rob. Overton* Constable of *Skeikby*.

Robert Carnell of *North-Collingham*, for a peaceable Meeting being at his House fined 20 l. and then the Justice (so called) sent a Warrant for the said *Robert*, to come before him, and when he came, he told him, *He was fined* 20 l. *for a Meeting at his House*: And *Robert* said, Then it seems I am fined 20 l. for Worshipping God: *Yes*, said the Justice, *You are so*; *You are fined* 20 l. *for Worshipping God*: And then he bid the Officers take three or four times as much, that they might allow good Pennyworths: and the said *Robert* had Goods taken to the value of about 30 l.

Then the said Justice sent a Note under his hand, to Distrein of the said *Robert* for Tythe of Wool and Lamb, when they had taken his Wool and all his Sheep before.

This was done by *Wil. Cartwright* of *Offington*, called a Justice, and by his Warrant *Tho. Rogers* Constable, made distress; *Geo. Walker* of *Thurraton* chief Informer.

John Theaker and *Anne* his Wife of *Northcollingham*, for being at a peaceable Meeting, fined 5 s. a piece, and had Goods taken worth 1 l. *Mary Theaker* of the same, fined 5 s. and 10 s. for the first and second time being at a Meeting, and had Goods taken worth 1 l. 15 s. *Tho. Elsam* of *Gerton*, fined 25 s. had Goods taken worth 1 l. 10 s. *Tho. Ridge* of the same, for 25 s. had Goods taken worth 2 l. *Wil. Raworth* of the same for 20 s. had Goods taken worth 1 l. 8 s. *Tho. Crane*, for 15 s. had taken the worth of 1 l. 3 s. *Faith Sturges*, for 5 s. had Goods taken worth 8 s. *W. Wilson*, for 10 s. had Goods taken worth 17 s. *Mary Watson* of *Southcollingham*, for 5 s. had Goods taken worth about 1 l. *Mary Garret* of the same, for 5 s. had Goods taken worth 15 s. *Tho.*

Elſam of *Gerton*, for his own fine, and five perſons more, had goods taken to the value of about 1 l. 10 s. *W. Wilſon* of *Gerton*, for the like, had goods taken worth 2 l. *Robert Shaw* of *Greſthorpe*, fined 20 l. for ſuffering a Meeting at his Houſe, and he was at that time a Priſoner many miles from his houſe, and had been Priſoner many years before, and he had goods taken to the value of 30 l. *Wil. Calvert* of *Carlton* upon *Trent* was fined 5 s. for himſelf, and 5 s. for another, and had goods taken worth 17 s. *John Smith* of *Greſthorpe*, for the ſame, had goods taken worth 14 s. *John Truſwell*, and his wife, of *Sutton* upon *Trent*, were fined 5 s. apiece, and had goods taken to the value of about 1 l. *Hugh Heale*, of the ſame, fined 5 s. and *John Truſwel* had goods taken from him for the ſame worth 7 s. 6 d. *Matthew Hortley* fined 5 s. and had goods taken worth 10 s.

All theſe Diſtreſſes aforeſaid taken by Warrant from *W. Cartwright* of *Oſſington*, *George Walker* of *Thurraton* Informer, diſtreined by *Wil. Harriſon* Conſtable of *Gerton*, *T. Rogers* Conſtable of *North-Collingham*, *Robert Stevenſon* Conſtable of *Greſthorpe*, *Wil. Mettam* Conſtable of *Sutton* upon *Trent*.

Joſeph Walls fined 41 l. 10 s. for eighteen perſons, and had goods taken to the value of about 61 l. *John Theaker* of *North-collingham* fined 71 l. 10 s. for twenty three perſons, and had taken to the value of 171 l. Again, another time he was fined 1 l. for himſelf and his wife, and 10 l. for the poverty of another, for preaching, as pretended, and had goods taken to the value of about 20 l.

Theſe Diſtreſſes taken by Warrant from *Pennyſton Whaley* of *Streaton*, *George Walker* of *Thurraton*, and *Thomas Colgrave* of *North-Collingham* Informers, for the firſt, and *George Walker* Informer at the laſt Meeting; diſtreined by *Thomas Rogers* Conſtable of *North-collingham*.

John Abbat of *Kneſy*, for 5 s. had goods taken worth 12 s. *James Cocke*, for himſelf and his Wife, was fined 20 s. and loſt goods worth 1 l. 10 s. *Joſeph Watſon* was fined 15 s. for himſelf, and 10 s. for another, had goods taken to the value of 3 l. *John Engliſh* fined 10 s. and had goods taken to the value of 15 s.

It

It is not certain by whose Warrant these Distresses were taken, or who were the Informers.

Note, John Theaker being fined as aforesaid, for the poverty of twenty three Persons, he put in his Appeal, and upon Trial at the Sessions, *George Walker* and *Tho. Colgrave*, the two Informers, did witness upon Oath the Poverty of the said Persons; and when the Matter had been pleaded and cleared for the Appellant, *Pennyston Whaly* told the Jury, *They might find it for the King*; and the Jury did so: And it was there proved that those Persons had Estates; and fined *Tho. Ridge* of *Gerton*, being one of the same Persons, was fined by *Pennyston Whaly*, 10 l. for the poverty of *Robert Shaw* of *Gresthorpe*, for a Meeting at his House: And *Tho. Elsam*, another of the same Persons, fined 1 l. by the said *Pennyston Whaly*: And *Wil. Raworth*, another of the same Persons, 2 l. 5 s. by the said *Pennyston Whaly*: And yet it was sworn by *Walker* and *Colgrave*, That these persons were not able to satisfie 10 s. apiece for themselves, by reason of their Poverty: And *Thomas Ridge* had Goods taken from him, upon this account, to the value of about sixteen pounds, and *Thomas Elsam* about twenty shillings, and *William Raworth* about four pound: And when they came to load *Tho. Ridge* his Hey, for the said Fine, *Wil. Harrison* Constable, charged Carts and Men to help about it, so that People could not go about their occasions in quietness.

Note, Will. Clayton of *Elton*, and *John Barker* of *Bingham*, being together at a house, and no more Company in the House, besides the Family; *Robert Chamberlain* of *Bingham*, who is an Informer, coming into the House, asked *William Clayton* some Questions, and *William* spake a few words in Answer, and the said *William* was fined 20 l. 5 s. by *Pennyston Whaley*, for preaching, and Meeting, and *John Barker* fined 10 l. 5 s. and the said *William* had goods taken to the value of about 15 l. and afterwards they fetcht his Sheep to make it up, which were worth about 4 l. And *John Barker* had goods taken from him worth 12 l.

The Distreiners were *George Hargrave* Constable of *Elton*, *Tho. Caunt*, and *Tho. White* Constables of *Bingham*.

Wil.

Wil. Raysworth of *Gerton* fined 10 s. for himself, and 2 l. 9 s. for others, had goods taken to the value of 4 l. *Tho. Ridge* of the same place, for 10 s. fine, and 10 l. for another, had goods taken away worth 16 l. *Tho. Elsam* of the same place, for himself and others was fined 20 s. and had goods taken to the value of 1 l. *Tho. Crane* of the same place, fined 20 s. and had goods taken worth 1 l. 13 s. 4 d.

These Distresses were taken by Warrant from *Pennyston Whaley* aforesaid, *George Walker* of *Thurraton* Informer, distreined by *Wil. Harrison* Constable of *Gerton*.

Joseph Walls of *Grestborp* fined 10 l. for the poverty of the House, and 20 l. for preaching as pretended, and had goods taken to the value of about 16 l. and afterwards they distreined a great stack of Hey. This distress taken by Warrant from *Pennyston Whaley*, *George Walker* Informer, distreined by *Robert Stevenson* Constable of *Grestborpe*.

Tho. Ingall of *Westthrope*, for a peaceable Meeting being in his House, he and several others were sent to prison by *Cicil Cooper*, called Justice, and for a time continued Prisoners, and in that time the said *Thomas* was fined 20 l. and had goods taken for the same, to the value of 31 l. *Edw. Aslin* of *Hallam*, for being at the same Meeting, had goods taken worth 15 s. *John Law*, for the same, the worth of 1 l. 11 s. *John Law*, for *Tobias Holder*, for the same 5 s. These Distresses taken by Warrant from *Cicil Cooper* of *Thuraton*, *John Dawson*, and *John Martin* of *Westhrope* Informers, distreined by *Tho. Rippine*, and others.

Ralph Bateman, for a peaceable Meeting at his house, had goods taken of his own, and his Brother *John Batemans*, to the value of about 28 l. *Wil. Watson* for being at the same Meeting, fined 15 s. and had goods taken to the value of about 2 l. 10 s. *Alice Smith*, for her Son, for the same, had goods taken worth 2 l. 3 s. 4 d. *Andrew Hodson*, for his wife, for the same, had goods taken worth 2 l. *Lawrence Watts*, for his wife, for the same, had goods taken worth 1 l. 14. *Margaret Dring* of *Hollam*, for the same, had goods taken worth 18 s. These Distresses taken by Warrant from one called Justice *Lea* of *Norwell*, *John Cuttlow* and *Edward Bonnington* of *Fransfield*, Informers, distreined by *George*

George Richarſon Conſtable, and others of the Townſmen of *Farnsfield*.

Tho. Ingall of *Weſthrope*, for having a Peaceable Meeting at his houſe, was fined 20 l. and alſo fined 10 l. for the poverty of another houſe, and he had goods taken to the value of 52 l. by Warrant from *John Cooper* of *Thurgaton*, taken by *Tho. Rippin* Conſtable, with other Officers, *Lawrence Daviſon* and *Edward Bonler* of *Weſthrope* Informers.

Tho. Ingall aforeſaid, had goods taken another time, by the ſaid *Tho. Rippin*, and others, by Warrant from *Pennyſton Whaley George Walker* of *Thurraton*, and *Iſaac Leawood* of *Southwell* Informers, 24 l.

Wil. Watſon of *Farnsfeild*, fined 5 l. for himſelf and others, and had Goods taken from him to the value of 16 l. by Warrant from *John Cooper* of *Thurgaton*; taken by *Geo. Richarſon* Conſtable of *Farnsfeild*, with others; *Geo. Walker* of *Thurraton*, and *Iſaac Leawood* of *Southwell*, Informers.

Margaret Dring of *Hallam*, for a peaceable Meeting being at her houſe, was fined 10 l. and 10 l. laid upon another for the ſame Houſe, and ſhe had Goods taken to the value of about 16 l. the Juſtices name not known that granted that Warrant againſt her; *Lawrence Ellis*, and *Rob. Fiſher* the younger, Informers; diſtreined by *Robert Fiſher* the elder, Conſtable, with ſeveral others.

Note, *Nathaniel Price* of *Farnsfeild*, for being at a Meeting, was fined 1 l. and he being a poor Fatherleſs Boy, that Friends had put out to Apprentice, and having no viſible Eſtate, the Offices took his Coat, and Breeches, and four half Pence, and his Knife and Sheath, and Sizzers. This was done by *George Richardſon* Conſtable of *Farnsfield*, *Tho. Hawkin*, *Rich. Copper*, and *Hugh Hardin* Townſmen.

Edward Aſline of *Hallam* being fined, and not having an eſtate left to ſatisfie it, the Officers went to *Pennyſton Whaley* to acquaint him with it, and he ſaid, (as they report) *That where there was nothing, the King muſt loſe his right, and the Informers too*; but the Officers being not therewith ſatisfied, they went to *John Cooper*, called Juſtice, and he bid them (as they ſaid) to bring the ſaid *Edward* before him; and *Robert Fiſher* the elder, and

Robert

Robert Fisher the younger, took the said *Edward* by force, without any Warrant that was known to him, and brought him before the said *John Cooper*, and the said *John Cooper* said, *You will not leave off this yet; will you take the Oath* of Allegiance; *I know you will not*: And so he committed him to the House of Correction, where he remaineth; a Copy of the Mittimus followeth.

Note, *Because he had no Goods to Satisfie the greedy Informers, the old* Snare *must be put to him.*

You are charged herewith, to receive the Body of Edward Aſlin, *who refuſeth to take the* Oath *of* Allegiance *and* Supremacy, *there you are to keep him in ſafe Cuſtody till he be delivered by due courſe of Law. Given under my Hand and Seal this* 24*th of* Auguſt, *in the* 22*th Year of his Majeſties Reign, An. Dom.* 1670.

J. Cooper.

George Wheldale of *Headen*, for a Meeting at his Houſe, had Goods diſtreined to the value of about 20 l. diſtreined by Warrant from *John Reyner* of *Drayton*; *George Tye* and *John Butler* of *Eſt-Retford*, Informers, *Bich. Booth*, and one *Pettinger*, came with the Informers.

Tho. Sampſon of *Leverton*, for being at a Meeting, had Goods taken to the value of about 8 s. *John Gudderith* of *Gringley*, for the ſame, had taken worth 12 s. *Wil. Hudſon*, for the ſame, to the value of 12 s. *Geo. Rogers* of *Wellam*, for the ſame, to the value of 8 s. *William Rogers*, for the ſame, to the value of 6 s. *Lydia Martin* of *Draton*, for the ſame, to the value of 10 s. diſtreined by Warrant from *John Reyner*, by *John Jackſon*, Conſtable of *Clarebrough*, with others; *John Butler* and *George Tye*, aforeſaid, Informers.

Some few Obſervable Things.

Note, *Joſeph VValls* of *Greſthorpe*, fined 10 l. as aforeſaid, by *Pennyſton VVhaly* for the poverty of *Robert ſhaw* of *Greſthorpe*, for ſuffering a Meeting at his Houſe the ſecond time, when they had taken Goods from *Robert Shaw* before, for the firſt time, to the value of about 30 l. and the ſaid *Robert* a Priſoner at the ſame time, and had been Priſoner many years before; and the ſaid

Joſeph

Joseph had six Feeding Beasts and a Bull taken from him, upon that account, to the value of about 16 l. 10 s. by *Robert Stevenson* Constable, and the six Beasts were sold, and it was said, the Bull was to be sent to Justice *Whaly*, who had taken into his custody before, five Cows of *Wil. Claytors*, and three Cows of *Tho. Ingalls*, as some reported.

George Walker the Informer, came into the Meeting at *Gresthorpe* the same time; and he brought with him to the door *Rob. Stevenson*, Constable, and one *Tustins*, a Townsman; and as it is said, he bad them *Take notice of that man that first spake in the Meeting*: And when he had sitten a time amongst them, he went to the Door, and presently came in again, and there being not any thing spoken, the said *Walker* asked *Joseph Wals* this Question, *When wilt you give over this?* *Joseph* asked him saying, *George*, When wilt thou give over thy Trade? *Walker* replied, *Not while you give over yours*: *Joseph* replied, *George Walker*, Thine will not bring thee Peace in the latter end: And for thus simply speaking to the Informers Questions, the said *Joseph* was fined 20 l. by *Pennyston Whaly*, for Preaching or Teaching, and a Stack of Hey distreined for it by *R. Stevenson* Constable: *Tho. Elsam* of *Gerton* being then present, and minding *Walker* the Informer, to love his Neighbour as himself, and to do unto all men, as he would they should do unto him, according to their *Liturgy*: And for speaking a few words in this manner to him, *Pennyston Whaly* fined him 10 l. for Preaching or Teaching, and fined *Jhon Theaker* of *North-collingham*, 10 l. for *Thomas* his poverty; and the said *John*, for the same, and 1 l. for himself and his Wife, had Goods taken to the value of about 20 l.

Note.

Note this, *Wil. Claytor*, and four more, being together at a House, waiting upon God, there came *Rob. Chamberlains* Son, whom the Father traineth up in the work of an Informer, and one *Christopher Dent* of *Bingham*, another Informer, and they brought some Officers of the Town with them, and when they came into the House, one of the Informers bid, *Take their names*; *W. Claytor* asked what he would take their names for? *Why*, said the Informer, *for a Silent Meeting*: *Nay*, said the other Informer, *set him down a Preacher*: And for asking the Informer this

harmleſs Queſtion, *Pennyſton Whaley* fined him 40 l. as being Convict the ſecond time, for Speaking or Preaching at a Conventicle, and *William* having got his Crop of Corn, they diſtreined it for the ſame, having taken away his Cows and Sheep before. A Copy of the Warrant is as followeth.

Nott. ſſ. *Whereas* William Claytor *of the Town, is the ſecond time convict for Speaking or Preaching at a Conventicle, or unlawful Meeting; theſe are to require you, That you leavy the ſum of* 40 l. *upon the Goods of the ſaid* Wil. Claytor, *and pay the ſame to me forthwith, that it may be diſpoſed as the Act directs. Given under my Hand and Seal,* Auguſt *the* 10*th* 1670.

P. Whaley.

Note, *Tho. Ingall* of *Weſthorpe*, fined 20 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe, and Goods taken as aforeſaid, worth about 31 l. and again, fined 20 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe, and 10 l. for the poverty of another Houſe, and then fined again, but the Warrant could not be ſeen, to know for what, or what ſum was charged; but upon the account of theſe two Warrants they ſeized of his Eſtate, and took both his Corn and Hay, Cattle and Carts, and were loading his Corn and Hey out of his Barns and Stacks ſeven dayes together, and did not ceaſe only one day between the five firſt and the two laſt. It was led away by *Tho. Gums*, *Tho. Rennard*, *John Blauch*, *Tho. Lamb*, *John Clay*, *Rich. Wilſon*, and *James Ploughman*; and they had three men a piece, with their Carts, and ſometimes ſix or ſeven men imployed about the work. *T. Ingall* was a man of a conſiderable Eſtate, and in a few dayes had neither Corn, Hay, Carts or Cattle left to relieve him

The like of this hath not been ſeen or heard in many Ages.

And further, They follow on in their Cruelty in this County, in ſpoiling and taking away the Goods of the Innocent, and having already taken (from thoſe that had conſiderable Eſtates) they now fall upon thoſe that have lower Eſtates, and have taken ſince more then what is particularly ſet down, from ſeveral poor men, Goods to the value 48 l. 11 s. 4 d. the particulars for brevity ſake ſhall be omitted.

The

The chief Informers in this last Spoil were, *Rich. Straw*, *Wil. Marrison* of *Harworth*, *Geo. Morris*, *Rob. Spanine*, *Geo. Langwith*, *John Flower*, *Rob. Heald*, *Rob. Swift*, *N. Hurst*, all these are the Informers.

Note, *Wil. Clayton* of *Elton* being fined 40 l. as aforesaid, for Speaking or Preaching at a Conventicle, and his Corn being distreined for the same, he offered his Appeal unto *Pennyston Whaly*, by whom he was convicted, as pretended, for a second Offence for Preaching, though the said *William* did not speak any thing, but only askt the Informer, when he bid, *Take their Names*, What wilt thou take our Names for: This was what the said *William* did speak; and all sober People may judge, whether this can be made Preaching, either according to signification or common acceptation: And the first time there was but another in the House with him, besides the Family, and he only answered some Questions that the Informer asked; and this was made Preaching at a Conventicle, and he fined 20 l. being the first time, as pretended, and Goods distreined as aforesaid; and whether the first was a lawful Conviction, either of being at a Conventicle or Preaching, let moderate People judge: And when the said *William* offered his Appeal unto *Pennyston Whaly*, and that he had looked upon it, he said, he would not take it, because the Title of Esquire was not given him, and said, *For this Cause, I will not take it*; and so threw it from him. A Copy of the Appeal is as followeth.

Nott. ss. To the Kings Justices of the Peace, at the next Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, held for the said County at *Nottingham*; the Appeal of *William Clayton* of *Elton*, in the County of *Nottingham*, Husbandman. 9th 7th Moneth (*Sept.* 1670.)

Whereas by Warrant under the hand and seal of P. Whaly, *one of the Kings Justices of the Peace, for the said County, several Goods of the said Appellant, have been distreined for the sum of* 40 l. *imposed by the said Warrant, for a second Conviction upon the said Appellant, for Speaking or Preaching at a Conventicle or unlawful Meeting, as by the said Warrant is alledged.*

The said Wil. Clayton *finding himself agrieved by the granting of the said Warrant, and the distress upon him, made by force thereof, doth according to a Proviso in an Act of Parliament, made to Prevent and*

Suppreſs Seditious Conventicles, appeal to the Quarter-Seſſions for relief and remedy.

1. *For that it doth not appear by the ſaid Warrant, that there were any credible Information or Witneſs againſt the ſaid Appellant, for Speaking or Preaching at a Conventicle, at any certain day or time, by which he might be lawfully convicted, or by what Law he ſtands convicted as an Offender.*

2. *This Appellant doth deny, that he this Appellant, hath been either firſt or ſecond time lawfully convicted of taking upon him to Preach at a Conventicle or unlawful Meeting, contrary to the Statute in the like caſe provided.*

[*Note*] Now it may be obſerved, that there was as much given him in the Appeal, as he gave himſelf in his own Warrant; for he wrote himſelf no more but *P. Whaley* in the Warrant, and the Appeal referred to the Warrant: And when *William* told him, He would have him to do Juſtice, and ſhew Mercy, he ſaid, YOU SHALL HAVE JUSTICE, BUT NO MERCY; and yet refuſed his Appeal, which according to Juſtice he ſhould have received, that the ſaid *William* might have anſwered at the Seſſions, and had his Tryal by a Jury, as the Act provideth and alloweth; but inſtead of doing Juſtice according to his word; he condemned the ſaid *William* as an Offender without his Anſwer, and ordered Threſhers to be ſet on forthwith, to Threſh out his Corn; and one poor man being not willing to be imployed in ſuch a work, he ſent a Warrant to diſtrein of him for five Pounds if he refuſed; and ſo the poor man was forced for fear to do that which was againſt his Conſcience: But the Corn being not yet threſhed all out, it cannot be juſtly valued, but it is thought, they will hardly leave any untaken away, and there was ſome ſcores of loads of good Corn brought in.

Some few plain things, noted in this caſe, concerning Pennyſton Whaley.

1. The pride of heart, in a title of ſelf-honour.
2. The hardneſs of heart, in refuſing to ſhew mercy.
3. The cruelty of heart, in refuſing to do juſtly.

Scrip-

Scripture Teſtimony.

The wicked in his pride doth perſecute the poor, Pſal. 10. 2.

A mans Pride ſhall bring him low, Prov. 29. 23.

Becauſe he remembred not to ſhew mercy, but perſecuted the poor and needy man; that he might even ſlay the broken in heart, Pſal. 109. 16.

For he ſhall have judgment without mercy, that hath ſhewed no mercy, Jam. 2. 13.

Thou ſhalt not wreſt the judgment of the Poor in his cauſe, Ex. 23. 6.

Te who turn Judgment to Woorwood, and leave off Righteouſneſs in the Earth, Amos 5. 7.

The Ancient Law.

And by the Law no man is to be condemned without Tryal, or to be denied, or to be defered either Juſtice or Right. *Magna Char.* 29.

None to be Attatched, or Fore-judged contrary to the Great Charter, or the Law. 5 *Ed.* 3. 9.

None ſhall be condemned upon ſuggeſtion, without lawfull preſentment. 25 *Ed.* 3. 9.

Now let the Juditious and impartial Reader compare the actions of *Pennyſton Whaley* with Scripture Teſtimony, and the Ancient Law.

Eſſex.

W *Altham Abbey. Edward Claton* Informer informed *Henry Wrach*, called Juſtice, of a Meeting of the People call-Quakers, at *Tho. Bennets* in *Waltham-Abbey*, upon which ſeveral Friends were fined, and had goods taken worth about 10 l. and the ſaid *Tho. Bennet*, for having three Meetings at his houſe, had taken from him worth between threeſcore and fourſcore pounds, notwithſtanding he had made his goods of his Shop over to his Brother for the ſecurity of debts owing to his Creditors: *Robert Newman* Conſtable, *Edward Knag*, and another man, who had been lately burnt in the hand, were the chief Actors in breaking up of Meetings in this Town; the aforeſaid *Ed. Claton* being the chief Informer.

On

On the 5th day of the 4th Moneth 1670. at a Meeting of Friends in the ſame Connty, the Meeting being juſt ended, and moſt of the people gone; on a ſudden there ruſhed into the houſe two wild Fellows, ſaying, *Here is brave ſport, it is better then hunting*, and clapt to the doors, with curſing in their mouthes, ſoon after came *Tho. Mead*, and *Peter Somes*, called Juſtices, *Mead* ſaid to the Conſtable, threatning, that he would fine him becauſe he did not purſue ſuch Meetings; a Friend ſaid to him called Juſtice, It is better for thee to encourage him to look after Ale-houſes, and Drunkards; with that *Mead* ſwore, it had been better for them if they had been at an Ale houſe, ſo they took the names of Friends, and went away.

Huntingtonſhire.

IT will be too large to relate all the particulars of the great ſpoil made upon poor mens Eſtates in this County, there having been taken from ſeveral ſince this laſt Act goods to the value of 276 l. that an Account is given already of. *Tho. Liſter* of this County was fined 2 l. for being at a Meeting at *Godmanchester*, for which they took a Horſe from him worth 6 l. and a Cow worth 2 l. they ſold the Horſe to *Henry Williams*, called a Juſtice, for 25 s. and the Cow to another Juſtice his man for 16 s. 6 d. *Chriſtopher Maidſtone*, for being at two Meetings was fined for himſelf, and his Wife 20 s. upon the Oath of *John Black*, and *W. Scot*, Informers; who ſwore falſly, for the Woman was not at the Meeting: and many times in this County they have ſold the goods and Cattel for little more then half the worth of them. And the Informers took away from Friends, before they were convicted, five Horſes, without Warrant or Record made, which irregular actions were juſtified by *John Heron* Juſtice, ſo called.

Note.

Jaſper Liſter, for Meering, at *Godmanchester* and *Huntington*, was fined 1 l. 5. for which, goods were taken from him to the value of 3 l. and upward; and beſides that, they took all the goods left in his houſe; ſo he went to *John Heron*, called Juſtice, for

for a Bed, which he refusing, he desired he might have a Blanket to cover him; which he would not, though the man have three children, and himself so lame, that he goes upon Crutches. *John Cranwell* of *Earith*, the 26th of the 4th Moneth, 1670. for having a Meeting at his house, was fined 20 l. by *Nich. Johnsons*, called Justice, for which the Constable took nine Cows worth 25 l. and because no one would buy them at the Market, the Justices caused them, and other goods taken from Friends, to be brought to the next Sessions, where they were sold amongst the Justices by the inch of candle. *Tho. Burgis*, a poor man, being fined 5 s. for the same Meeting, had four Cheeses, a Frying-pan, a Brass-pot, and Hooks taken from him worth 10 s. 8 d. *John Arthur* was fined for the same Meeting 5 l. 10 s. for which they streined all that he had in his house, and took away the very Dung in his Yard, (notwithstanding he had sold it to another) leaving him neither Dish nor Spoon. *Leonard Baker* and *William Fowler* were fined for the same Meeting, by *Rich. Aprice* 5 l. 10 s. for which they took from *Leo. Baker* one Cow worth 3 l. which was all that he had, being a poor Labourer, having a wife and three small children; and from the said *W. Fowler* they took a Cow, and Sow and Piggs worth 5 l. 6 s.

Cumberland.

Robert Humes, and one *Robert Hodgson* of *Kerkanders*, were the two principle Informers of this County. *Robert Huntington*, for having a Meeting in his House was fined 20 l. and had goods taken from him to the value of 13 l. at one time, and they threatned to come again, having another Warrant from *Tho. Denton*, *Christopher Richmond*, and *John Eglionby*, called Justices, for 15 l. more, and when the Friend made his appeal at the Sessions he could not be heard, though the Informers swore against some that were not at the Meeting: There is one thing remarkable in this County, that is, one *Simson* of *Sowerby*, that bought two of *Rob. Huntington*'s Cows, he died suddenly after; and leaving them to his father, he died suddenly after him: And one *White* of

of *Calbeck* bought another of the ſaid Cows, and when he was about the buying of her, he was unwilling, but his Wife (as its reported) ſaid, That they might have her as well as another Cow; but in a little time after a ſudden Judgment fell upon her, for ſhe and her child lay drowned in a pond, and the water was ſo little, that a part of the woman was not wet; and they have taken goods from ſeveral poor men, ſome Tradeſmen, and ſome Labouring-men, in this County, to the value of 14 l. 8 s. for meeting together to worſhip God; ſome of which perſons have great charges of children, and have had their very Rugs taken off their Beds by the Informers, and one *Will. Sturdy* Conſtable. And *Tho. Denton*, called a Juſtice, gave forth a Warrant to diſtrein 20 l. 10 s. on the goods & chattels of *W. Storay* of *Moorhouſe*, for having a Meeting at his houſe, though he was in Priſon, and hath remained a Priſoner near eight years, becauſe he could not ſwear.

Note.

Norfolk.

THe Sufferings of Friends in this County are very great, ſeveral having had all that ever they could call theirs taken from them; they having ſeized goods to the value of 622 l. 15 s. 11 d. already, according to the Account ſent up; beſides Warrants are out to ſtrein ſeveral others. *Samuel Pike* had 40 l. worth of Cattel taken from him for a Fine of 20 l. *Robert Laſt* had all his Cows taken away for a Fine of 10 l. and a Feather-bed, which was worth about 3 or 4 l. for a Fine of 5 s. An old blind man, whoſe name is *John Bootey*, had all his Cows taken from him, worth about 21 l. which were ſold for 9 l. *Peter Gill* had all his goods taken from him, to a conſiderable value, not leaving him ſo much as his working Tools, he being a Carpenter, but ſtript him of all. The goods that have been taken away in this County ſeldom any would buy them but drunken rude Fellows that might have them for leſs then half the worth of them; the Prieſts bidding the Conſtables ſell them at any rate, if they could get but 1 s. for 5 s. worth of goods. In this County

County ſome Juſtices imploy their Servants to be Informers; ſo they are Judges, and Jury, and appoint Witneſſes, and it is ſeldom that Friends are ever brought to hear what they are accuſed of. Surely the cry of the Oppreſſed will enter into the Ears of the Almighty God, who is able to deliver from this great Bondage and Oppreſſion.

Note. And it may be obſerved, that one, called Juſtice *Harbard Aſbley*, when that he examined Friends, whether they met to worſhip God, they asked, If he would make that a breach of the Law, he ſaid, Yea. He, and *Chriſtopher Colthorpe*, called a Juſtice, alſo adviſed Conſtables to take away the working Tools of poor labouring men, and all that Friends had, and then they ſhould have done with them.

John Caſtle Servant to *Philip Woodhouſe*, *Edward Winter*, and *Nathaniel Hincks* are the principle Informers in this County; and alſo one called Capt. *Cropley* buſied himſelf to be an Informer, forcing Friends before the Juſtice, without a Warrant, and being deſired to ſhew his Warrant, he ſhewed his Rapier; and he beat one Friend ſorely on the head with his Stick, and being down, kickt him on the back, to the endangering of his life, and all becauſe he was not willing to go without a Warrant.

[*Note*] *John Lawrence* of *Wramplingham* being fined 20 l. for having a Meeting at his Houſe, by *Philip Woodhouſe*, called a Juſtice, (who makes his Servants Informers) and *Robert Long*, and by Warrant from them had goods taken to the value of 40 l. and ſome being ſet to threſh out his Corn, ſaid, That Juſtice *Long* told them, that they might take 40 l. worth of goods for 20 l. and that they were Fools if they did not take 10 l. for their pains in ſelling and diſpoſing of them.

Suffolk.

BEfore the firſt ſeizure of goods, Friends living at *Haveril* were ſent for, before one called Juſtice *Ellwes* of *Stoaks-Clay*, who ſaid, he ſent not for them to entrap or enſnare them, by asking Queſtions, &c. but that they might ſhew a Reaſon

why the Act should not be inflicted upon them, which, when Friends pleaded they were not seditiously met, &c. and the Informers said, they could not tell they were seditiously met; and the Justice said, he must judge of that, and did believe it, but would not swear to it: Then when the Informers gave a second Note of Friends names, proffering to swear unto it, a Friend said, Have a care how thou swearest, for thou art not to swear at all; the man, called Justice, replied, such young Boys would be whipt till the Devil be whipt out of them; and if he had a Law he would send them all to *Bridewel* to be whipt, till the Devil was whipt out of them: And when Friends told the Justice of his strengthning the hands of Evil-doers, and that he did encourage false Swearers, (for they had sworn two were at the Meeting that day, which were not there) he said, Let the Informers take his word for it, they should be very well paid for their pains; and *Tho. Evans* for saying to him, that the Act was contrary to the Ancient Laws, and *Magna Charta*, he made a Mittimus, and sent him to the Goal at *Bury*; and several were fined, and their goods distreined in this County, and their Accusers and them never brought face to face, but Oathes taken in private against them; and when two Friends went to the aforesaid Justice, to signifie their Debts were great, and that he would through such Fines incapacitate them to pay Creditors, so that they might have no credit afterwards; he replyed, Take no thought for that, we will make sure of the getting up any more, for we will break the blood of you.

The particulars of goods are as followeth.

Taken from *Robert Sharpe* 40 l. worth; from *John Bird* 18 s. from *An. Appleby* goods worth 67 l. from *T. Evans* goods worth 34 l. from *J. Edwards* 10 s. from *Daniel Gregly* goods worth 7 l. from *George Evans* worth 45 l. and from three others goods worth 15 s.

Also they have distreined from several Friends in and about *Hoxon* in this County goods to the value of 76 l. and upwards, for meeting to worship God. One *John Edwards* was distreined by *Samuel Bancroft* Overseer of *Winckfield*, and *Ben. Nicolas* Constable by Warrant from one called Justice *Dade*, for a Fine of 8 l. for a supposed Preacher, at a Meeting at *John Ameson*'s house

at

at *Hoxon*, whose name and habitation, as the Warrant saith, they knew not, neither indeed was it possible they should, when there was not any preached or spoke there that day, nevertheless they took away goods from the said *John Edwards* worth above eight pounds for the Preacher.

Edmonds-Bury. Upon the 3d of the 5th Moneth Friends being met in silence in *Edmonds-Bury*, there came to the Meeting *Matthew Warren*, Alderman of *Bury*, *James Cobbs*, *Robert Sharpe*, called Justices, with some Constables, and took several of their names, and then turned them all out; and upon the 10th day of the same Moneth the aforesaid Alderman and Justices came again, and took several of their names, as afore, they being met in silence. And upon the 17th of the same Moneth set a Ward at the Door, and kept Friends out; and for standing at the Door, the said Alderman and Justices committed forthwith six to the Common-Goal, viz. *James King*, *Edw. Dickes*, *Henry Hubbard*, *George Gibson*, *Robert Serjeant*, and *Tho. King*; and also gave out their Warrants to distrein the goods of several of them in Prison, and other abroad, for two Meetings; and also gave forth a Warrant to distrein *Tho. Tillet*, who let his house to Friends, where the Meeting was.

[*Note*] *Tho. Tillet* was not one of them called Quakers, only had let his house to some of them, for 7 l. a year; nevertheless for 20 l. fine for the House they took from the said *Tho. Tillet* fourscore and ten Combs of Mault, worth 8 s. the Comb, which comes to forty four pounds, and the second time they fined him five pounds, which he paid. *Henry Hubbard* for 20 s. Fine, had goods taken from him worth 8 l. *James King*, for 2 l. 10 s. Fine, had ware taken from him worth 5 l. 13 s. 8 d. *Edw. Dickes* was fined 10 l. for the House, and for that he was overseer for the Poor, and did not inform, he was fined 5 l. more, for which they took in Barley and Wheat, to the value of 17 l. 13 s. 6 d. *John Parry*, for 10 s. Fine, had goods taken from him worth 1 l. 6 s. and several other Friends belonging to the same Meeting had Goods taken from them for the same Cause to the value of 3 l. 9 s.

[*Note.*] Because the aforesaid six persons would not promise

at the Sessions, to go to no more Meetings; they are still kept close Prisoners, and the Justices are very unreasonable in their proceedings; bidding the Constables levy twice the value of what their Warrants are; and by their directions the Constables broke open the Doors of *Edw. Dribet* his Dwelling, and seized upon his Bran, and Corn-Chamber, where was the worth of 70 l. for 15 l. Fine, and locked the doors, keeping him out of possession, and threshing out his Corn, and carrying it away, and never giving any account, as if all were their own, not suffering the Owner to see it measured.

Cambridgeshire.

THere being a Meeting, in silence, (the 9th of the 4th Moneth 1670.) of six Friends, besides the Family, at *Edw. Wright's* house in *Sutton*; the Priests Son informed against them, for which the said *Edw. Wright* had as much goods and Cattel taken from him as were valued at 38 l. 8 s. and from four others that were present at the said Meeting, they took goods to the value of 55 s. by Warrant from *W. March* of *Haddingham*, called a Justice.

And there were goods taken (worth about 22 l.) from, and seized upon, several poor People, for being at several Meetings in *Chatteris* in the Isle of *Ely*. *James Read* for being at a Meeting in *Chatteris*, and for his Brothers being there, had a Cow taken from him worth 3 l. this was a poor man having four small children, and but two Cows, and they took the best of them. These goods were taken by Warrant from *Mich. Holman*, ——*Taylor*, and ——*Edwards*, called Justices; *Tho. Read* and *Rich. Blinth* Constables; *Nath. Read* Informer.

And the aforesaid Officers complaining to *Mich. Holman*, aforesaid, that *Rich. Cope*, and *Robert Spalton* Overseers of the Town aforesaid, refused to go to take mens goods away, for which the said *Holman* gave out a Warrant to distrein 5 l. a piece of their Goods and Chatels; so they took from *Rich. Cope* four Cows worth 9 l. and from *Robert Spalton* four Cows worth 11 l.

And for several silent Meetings in other places, in the said Isle

of

of *Ely*, goods have been taken and distreined to the value of 71 l. 13 s. 10 d. some being poor men from whom the goods were taken, and never had before any Magistrate to be convicted.

George Thorowgood, for having a Meeting at his House, in the said Isle of *Ely*, about the 4th Moneth 1670. *Wil. Holder* Priest, and an old Persecutor, and *John Lamy*, both called Justices, fined him 4 l. and *Rob. Hament*, *Michael Tomson*, and *Rich. Cutteridge* Constables, and *Dav. Guy*, and *Rob. Mayse* Warden, by Warrant from the said Justices, took from *G. Thorowgood* a feather Bed and two Bolsters, a Pillow and Pillowbeer, two Blankets, two Coverlids, worth 3 l. 10 s. and left the poor man to lodge in Straw.

Afterwards being again fined 10 s. (for standing in the Street before his own door) by *Ed. Parteridge*, and *I. Lamy* called Justices, he had taken from him three Sheets one Pillowbeer, and his Shirt, which should have shifted him, he being very sick in body at the time when this distress was taken. And they have distreined and taken from several Friends in *Cambridge*, and other parts of this County, goods to the value of 120 l. 1 s. 6 d.

John Aynsloe had taken from him, the 2d of the 5th Moneth last, for a Meeting at *Oner*, nine Milch Cows worth 30 l. eight of which were sold to *John Black* and *John Pye* of *Godmanchester* in the County of *Huntington*, both Informers, by *Tho. Hatton* called a Justice, by whose Warrant they were taken from the said *J. Aynsloe*; they were sold for 12 l. Also *J. Smith* of *Oner*, about the same time had 4 Cows taken from him (by the said *T. Hatton*'s Warrant) worth 13 l. which *T. Hatton* sold to *Black* and *Pye*, the Informers, for 6 l. 10 s. and by the same Warrant (having not enough as they accounted) they took from him 3 Heifers worth 5 l. 10 s. which one *S. Wade*, called Lord of the Mannor bought for 4 l. 10 s. It would be too large to express all the particulars of the Sufferings of the Lords People in this County; so this is a short Narrative extracted out of the Papers sent up at large.

Hartfordshire.

William Burr of *Baldock*, for having a Meeting in his house the 12th day of the 3d Moneth called *May*, 1670. was fined

fined 20 l. and *W. Robinson* the Informer, came to *W. Burrs* house to make distress, but finding the Mault-house Door locke, went away and informed the Justices, so called, *viz. Ralph Ratliff* and *James Wilmott*; not long after, the chief Constable and the Informer, and other Officers, came to *W. Burrs* house, having a Warrant from the aforesaid two Justices, to break open *W. Burrs* Doors (under a pretence) to search for a Meeting, and being not forward to break open the Mault-loft Door, *Wilmott* and *Ratliff* came themselves, & threatned to send the Constables to Goal, and to fine the cheif Constable 500 l. if they would not break into the Mault-loft, *James Wilmott* saying, *There was a Conventicle in the Loft, and they would go in to see*: So they got a Wimlet, and bored a hole in the Mault-Floor, and let about two Bushels out; and at last, the Informer broke open the Door, for fear he should loose his Prey, and for the 20 l. they took away twenty six Quarters of Mault, part of which they were fain to lay in the Market-House, because not one in the Town would receive it.

Note, This *Wilmott*, before distress made, did distribute (at the House of *Wil. Burr*) the third of 5 l. amongst the Poor, which he had caused the chief Constable to pay, as a Fine, for his not going to take knowledge of a Meeting, at command of the Informer. *Rob. Edwards*, chief Constable, *Edward Croft*, *Tho. Baldock*, jun. petty-Constables; *John Goodwin*, Overseer.

On the 11th of the 4th Moneth, the chief Constable, with the other Officers, went to the House of *Tho Baldock* jun. and having a Warrant from *James Wilmott*, to make distress for a Fine of 20 l. for having a Meeting at his House the 22th day of the 3d Moneth, for which they took 22. quarters of Mault.

On the 17th of the 4th Moneth, *Wilmott* and *Ratliffe* graned a Warrant to the aforesaid Officers to break open *Wil. Burrs* Mault-loft again, or any other Lofts; for they wanted more Mault; so the Constables, and other Officers, accompanyed with ten men, with Sacks and a Bushel, got upon the Mault-kill, and the Constables brake open the Door, and one of them said, *Come away, I have found that I looked for*: So they distreined for four several Meetings, with Warrants for 80 l. for which they carryed away, of their own measuring, 104. quarters of Mault, beginning at seven at Night, and working by Candle-light till

about

about two in the Morning. The said *Will. Burr* hath had taken from him in all 130. quarters of Malt; which to the Owner would have been worth 130 l.

Note, Further the Cruelty of these Persecutors, this *Will. Burr*, on whose Estate they have made such Waste and Spoil, is a Prisoner, and hath been this six years, under the Sentence of Banishment. And they have taken from several Friends belonging to *Baldock* Meeting, Goods worth 8 l.

Thomas Green, being at a Meeting of the Lords People, called *Quakers*, at *Sawbridgeworth*, the 22th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. and being at Prayer was pluckt off his Knees, and dragged out, and being had before *Robert Joslin*, and *Humphrey Gore*, called Justices, they fined him 20 l. for Speaking or Preaching at the said Meeting, and granted a Warrant to distrein, upon which Warrant *John Smith* and *Paul Tompson*, Constables, went into *Thomas Green*'s Shop in *Roston*, and caused *Tho. Rickett*, *John Thurby*, *Ed. Buman*, and *Simon Peacock*, to carry away the Goods of the said *T. G.* by whole sale, by burthens to *John Smith*'s house, at the *Red-Lyon* in *Roston*; and for the 20 l. Fine, they took as much Goods as were worth 50 l.

Again, Another time the said *Tho. Green* having a Meeting at one *George Hoggar*'s at upper *Chissell* in *Essex*. *Peter Soames*, and *Tho. Mead*, called Justices, sent, or gave a Warrant to him, called Justice *Wilmot*, to distrein 20 l. worth of Goods from the said *Tho Green*, for Speaking at the said Meeting; so the Officers went again to *Tho. Green*'s Shop, and took all they could get, to the value of about 20 l.

And there hath been taken away from Friends at *Hertford* and *Ware*, and other places, Goods to the value of 159 l. 16 s. for meeting to wait upon the Lord, the most of them being Silent-Meetings.

[*Note*] One of the Officers, that took away part of the aforesaid Goods, being a Brasier by Trade, would have valued the Pewter at 9 d. the pound, but he that is called Justice *Leaventhorpe* said, *That they must value it at* 5 d. *or* 6 d. *a pound, and for* 20. *or* 30 s. *distress, they must take away* 3. *or* 4 l. saying, *That they were at great expences, and that must be paid, and they could not sell Goods to the worth, and therefore must be sure; and take enough.*

Hitching.

Hitchin. The 19th of the 4th Moneth, 1670. Information being given by a Boy to *Ralph Ratcliff*, called Justice, of a Meeting at *Hitchin*, the said *R. Ratcliffe* accompanied with several others came to the said Meeting, and speaking to them, said, *I hope you will not deny, but that this is a Religious Meeting*; and after two or three times rehearsing these words, one said, It was a Religious Meeting: Then *R. Ratcliff* said, *That was enough*: And sent forth a Warrant to distrein them, and the Officers broke open five doors in one *Frances Feild* a Widdow Womans House, to come at her Goods, the said Justice *Ratcliff* encouraging of them in it, they took from two Persons as much Goods as were worth above 24 l. the name of the Headborough that brake the doors, is *Tho. Coat*, and he, and *Tho. Hutchesun*, *W. Patrick*, *Abr. Croswel*, and *W. Burgis*, took away the Goods.

Taken from *Thomas Burr* of *Ware*, on the account of having the Lease of the Meeting-place made to him for a Fine of 20 l. for each Meeting levied on him, Coales to the value of 6 l. 14 s. at one time; and on the 27th of the 4th Moneth, a Barge, with Sacks and Tackle, worth about 70 l. whereof the one half of her was *Richard Thomas*'s of *Hartford*, and so kept and sold wholly by them, though the said *Rich. Thomas* was no whit concerned in the said Lease, or at the Meeting; these said Goods were seized and taken away by *Thomas Bye*, high Sheriff of the County, with other Assistants: Also on the 29 of the 5th Moneth, 1670. on the same account they took away his Bed, Bolster, and Pewter, and Brass, and other Houshold-Goods, to the value of 21 l. 10 s. and at other times since have taken more Goods from him to the value of 3 l. 10 s. this Fine was levied by *Tho. Leavensthorpe* and *John Watts* called Justices, and by their Warrants taken away; executed by *John Cripps*, *Jos. Parker*, and *John Hix*, Constables; the said *Tho. Burr* being kept close Prisoner all the time by express order from the aforesaid high Sheriff.

Somersetshire.

FOr a Meeting at *Yeovill*, of the People of the Lord called *Quakers*, Goods were taken worth 125 l. 12 s. 11 d. for 48 l.

48 l. 10 s. demanded for Fines; by Warrant from *Wil. Helyar* called a Juſtice, who ſaid in fining *Jane Whitehead* for preaching 20 l. *He would take the Spirit of the Act, where the Letter failed.* *Chriſtopher Rix* Informer, a bad decayed man, indebted to the ſaid Juſtice, as is reported.

For a meeting at *Parſhut* Goods were taken away to the value of 207 l. 17 s. for 58 l. 10 s. Fines demanded by Warrant from *Hugh Smith*, called Knight of the Bath, and *Sam. Gorges*, called Juſtice; *Edmond Hayward*, and *Alexander Jones*, Envious men, Informers.

For a little Meeting at *Publee*, were Goods taken to the value of 7 l. 16 s. for 2 l. Fines, demanded by Warrant from *Hugh Smith*, and *John Hall*, called Juſtices, *John Sledge*, Informer, who ſhortly after died.

For a Meeting at *Long-Sutton*, Goods taken to the value of 88 l. 4 s. 4 d. for 50 l. 10 s. demanded by Warrant from the ſaid *Wil. Hellyar*.

More, Taken in part for another Meeting 86 l. 8 s. for 39 l. 15 s. Fines, by Warrant from *Ed. Phillipps* the younger; *Tho. Greenfeild* & *P. Pople* the Informers, being very bad ill-famed men.

For a Meeting at *Cadbury*, Goods were taken to the value of 60 l. 13 s. for 23 l. 5 s. Fines; by Warrant from *Rob. Hunt*; *Wil. Colly* Conſtable and chief Informer, who ſaid when he heard *Thomas Whitehead* Pray, *You have done enough now.*

For a Meeting at *Crewkerne*, Goods taken to the value of 59 l. 13 s. 8 d. for 21 l. 5 s. Fines, demanded by Warrant from *Wil. Hellyar*.

For a Meeting at *Wythel*, Goods taken to the value of 27 l. 10 s. for the Fines of 21 l. by Warrant from him that is called Sr. *Wil. Windham*, a Juſtice ſo called; *Edward Lobb*, one ſuſpected for a Witch, and *Wil. Mudford*, one that ran for a Baſtard, the Informers.

The value of Goods taken and ſeized as aforeſaid, in total,	663 l. 14 s. 11 d.
For Fines demanded———	264 l. 15 s. 00 d.

Beſides which, there are ſeveral other Diſtreſſes taken, and Warrants abroad for *Stoak* Meeting, and ſeveral other places,

which yet are not returned; and Spoiles made continually, one where or other, upon Friends Goods, for Worſhipping God in Spirit and Truth.

[*Note*] That ſeveral of theſe Spoiles aforeſaid, have been made upon the Goods of Widdows, poor Aged people and Fatherleſs Children, without Pitty or Mercy, & without admiſſion of any Plea in the behalf of the Innocent, ſome ſaying right, or wrong, they muſt have it; though ſome alſo ſay it is againſt their Conſcience to take Friends Goods upon this account; for they know by large experience, that we are both a Peaceable and Innocent People, and ſo reſolve to be.

The Copy of *Edmond Haywards* Mothers Letter to him, being a Warden, and an Informer, & Perſecutor of Friends at *Parſhut*.

SON Edmond, *my Love to you remembred; but at this time with much grief of Heart I write unto you; for I underſtand you have been an Inſtrument of much trouble to Honeſt People, which grieves me more then I can expreſs: And I now earneſtly require you, to heed what I ſay, if you have any Love to God, or Love to your own Soul, or Love to me, that ſo ſoon as you have received theſe Lines, You reſolve for the time to come, never to do any thing more againſt honeſt People, not ſo much as to ſpeak againſt them one Word tending to their hurt. And if you are in Office, you may keep forth of the way, as honeſt ſober men do elſewhere. And I do underſtand, that none do meddle in theſe Imployments, but thoſe, that have not the Fear of God before their Eyes, and ſuch as do not ſtand upon their Credit and Reputation in this Life, nor in their Happineſs in the Life to come. An Informer is accounted the baſeſt of men that are; thoſe that are counted Rogues, do ſcorn to be Informers, that being accounted a Degree worſe then they. I wiſh you were but ſenſible of my great grief and trouble about this buſineſs, and not mine only, but your Brothers and Siſters alſo: And I intreat you to write to me, with what ſpeed you can, to give me ſatisfaction; for I ſhall much long till I hear from you, and be in continual trouble, till I hear you are of another ſpirit; as you tender my Comfort and Peace, mind what I ſay, and I ſhall remain your loving Mother,*

Wilburn, *the* 12*th*
of July, 1670. Margaret Player.

Lincolnſhire.

Lincholnſhire.

FOr Meetings at *Mumby*, Goods and Cattle taken to the value of 65 l. 3 s. 6 d. for 42 l. 5 s. Fines demanded, by Warrant from *John Boſwell* called a Juſtice, *James Green*, *John Hunlebie*, *G. Milgate*, *John Blaker*, and *Abr. Smith*, Informers.

For Meetings at *Gedney* in *Holland*, Goods and Cattle taken to the value of 39 l. 17 s. 1 d. beſides one *Robert Binks* was fined 20 l. for having a Meeting at his Houſe, and his Goods were taken for it, but to what value is not expreſt; by Warrant from *John Say*, called Juſtice; *Wil. Walch* Alehouſe-keeper, *Tho. Jenkins*, *Robert Whitacre* Prieſt, *Wil. Green* Alehouſe-keeper, *Mat. Wilkinſon*, and *Charles Cope*, Informers.

For ſeveral other Silent-Meetings, in the parts of *Holland*, there were more Goods taken to the value 26 l. 1 s.

For ſeveral Meetings in *Honington*, and there about, neer *Grantham*, Goods taken to the value of 58 l. 15 s 4 d. by Warrant from *Francis Fane*, called a Knight and Juſtice, and *Anthony Thorold*, called a Juſtice; *Wil. Carter* Prieſt, *John Lee*, *John Day*, Aſſiſtants, and *Leonard Pickworth* Conſtable, *Richard Friſby* an Apparator and broken Butcher, *Ed. Greaves*, a Bumbaily ſo called, Informers.

For a Meeting at *Beckingham*, Goods were taken to the value of 22 l. 12 s. 10 d. by Warrant from *Francis Fane* called a Juſtice, the Prieſt of *Stillingfleet* being Informer.

For ſeveral Meetings in the Iſle of *Aixholm*, Goods have been taken to the value of 63 l. 10 s. 9 d. by Warrant from *Henry Maſterman* called Juſtice; *Edw. Maw*, *Rich. Brown*, and *Simon Robinſon*, Informers.

For a Meeting at *Gainsborough*, and places adjacent, Goods have been taken to the value of 61 l. 14 s. 4 d. by Warrant from *Wil. Hickman*, called a Juſtice, and others; *William Hickman*'s waiting Boy, and one *Tho. Parnel*, a very debauched perſon, being the Informers.

The total of all the Good, taken in this Country, is to the value of, 337 l. 14 s. 10 d.

All these loss of Goods, and spoil made upon Friends in this County, for meting and having Meeetings at their houses, hath been inflicted on them, although no Testimony ever came in against them, but that they were met together in Peace and Quietness, and no outward exercise of Religion, nor pretence of any proved against them; and some of them never called to answer, nor no Witness sworn in their sight against them, but the Witnesses examined against them in private, and their Examination taken in writing, and read to them, and called their Conviction.

Some Remarkable things, to be Noted in this County, are as followeth.

That *John Hunleby*, an Informer, being twice warned by *Lancelott Marshal* (when he came into Friends Meeting in *Mumby*) telling him how suddenly God had struck with Death a wicked Priest that came with him to the same Meeting not long before; the said Informer was angry, and told Friends they must appear before the Justice next day early in the Morning; but that Night *Hunleby* was struck with Sickness, that handled him in so strange a manner, that he died by piece-meal; and his Sister told a Friend, *That she never saw any depart so strangely in her life.*

It is to be noted, that *Wil. Carter* the Priest of *Honington*, aforesaid, being the chief Instigator against Friends peaceable Meetings, who bestirred himself much, to cause their goods to be taken, and spoil to be made; as he was coming home from the chief Constables house, was smitten with sickness, and in a short time was found dead in his Bed, unknown to the people of the house; and was so stiff, that it was judged his Arm, or Arms, were broken to lay him out.

Another thing observable is, that concerning the dividend of the share of *Tho. Everetts* goods to the Poor of *Honington*, some would receive none, others who did receive were troubled, and could not be at quiet in their minds till they came and tendred what they had received to the wife of the said *Tho. Everett*; another of the Town said, That if he should keep any of that which he had received, he believed it would be a curse to his whole estate; though yet he hath restored nothing.

[Note]

[Note] *Rich. Frisby* an Apparator, and *Edw. Greaves*, two notorious bad Fellows of *Grantham*, who took upon them to be Informers for filthy lucre ſake, the 31th of the 5th Moneth, 70. came into *Tho. Everets* houſe, in *Honington*, and *Greaves* ſaid, There was preaching, when no Friends were there, and went away, and after a while, Friends being come, the Informers came again; one while *Greaves* ſaid one was the Preacher, another while another; ſo at length pitcht upon one, upon whom he thought a ſufficient diſtreſs might be taken to ſatisfie his wicked mind, though not one word was ſpoken by him, nor any one there; they went to *Anthony Thorrald*, called Juſtice, and upon their falſe Oathes and Informations, that one *John Peachell* did preach to the Aſſembly that day, he ſent out a Warrant to diſtrein 20 l. for the Preacher, and 20 l. for the Houſe.

It is alſo to be noted, That when a Friend went to the ſaid *Anthony Thorrald*, and laid it before him, of the falſe Oathes of of *Rich. Frisby*, and *Edw. Greaves*, the Juſtice did believe the Friend, and promiſed to go to *Grantham* on a certain day and examine them again, to which place the Friend went to meet him, but the ſaid *Anth. Thorrald* failed, and came not; but did, not long after grant out another Warrant, to leavy the ſum they came ſhort of upon the firſt Diſtreſs, upon others that were judged abler, and to make return at Seſſions, as it was ſaid, before which time the ſaid *Anth. Thorrald* was dead.

Darbyſhire.

FOr a Meeting at *Matlock*, at *Anth. Buntings*, the 25th of the 4th Moneth 1670. goods were taken to the value of 100 l. 3 s. 10 d. for 59 l. 5 s. Fines, by Warrant from *John Lowe*, called a Juſtice, *John Hatham* and his Son Informers.

For a Meeting at *Cornelius Arnalls*, at *Leads*, the 25 of the 4th Moneth, (70) for 18 l. 8 s. 4 d. demanded for Fines, goods were taken to the value of 35 l. 13 s. by Warrant from *G. Clark*, called a Juſtice, *Tho. White*, *Geo. Hibord*, *Wil. Dob*, Informers.

For a Meeting at *John Holme's* near *Cheſterfield*, the 3d of the 5th

5th Moneth, 1670. goods taken to the value of 54 l. 18 s. 8 d. for 42 l. 5 s. Fines, by Warrant from *God Clark*, called Justice, *Paul Fletcher*, *Francis Callow*, *Francis Swift* the Informers.

Taken from *Nicholas Swift*, for having a Meeting at his House, goods to the value of 7 l.

Cheshire.

THe 18th of the 3d Moneth 1670. Friends being peaceably assembled at *Rich. Smiths* in *Chester*, the Souldiers, who are made Informers, and Constables, took them forth, and had them before *John Pool*, called a Justice, who in his cruelty, bad the Clark go to the extent of the Law; and if the late Act would not be cruel enough, to take another; so the Souldiers swore that they took them at a Conventicle, which the Clark recorded for a conviction, and Warrants were granted by the said *Poole*, to make distress; and he bid them take enough, and they took five or six times as much as the Fines came to. And on the 22th of the same Moneth the Souldiers took them out of their Meeting again, and had them before the Mayor, where the Souldiers swore they were met together (as they did believe) to worship God; that is enough said the Mayor, and fined them; and soon after *Tho. Brown* a Constable, and a bad Fellow with him, thrust violently into *Rich. Smiths* house, when he was from home, and getting into the Kitchin, set up such a shout that they frighted the woman and children; so the first thing they seized upon, for the Kings use, (as *Brown* said) was half a Flitch of Bacon, a piece of hung Beef, a Gammon of Bacon, and other Houshold goods, taking all they could come at, except a great Press, which they could not get out of doors; and *R. Smiths* Wife refusing to open other doors to them, the said *Brown* struck her; and he was so drunk, that he vomitted upon one of the Children; and when *R. Smith* came, he found two bad Fellows (the Constable's Assistants) in his House, and he bid them go forth, and asked them by what authority they came there; one of them said, (whose name is *Tho. Bailiffes*) thou shalt know I have more authority in this

this Houſe then thou haſt, and gave the ſaid *R. Smith* Threatning Languague. And thus in cruelty have the Magiſtrates proceeded, taking Friends Meeting after Meeting, and Fining them, and taking away their goods; the Souldiers who are Informers, threatning, that they would have all their eſtates; for brevity ſake I ſhall forbear to expreſs the particulars of the goods they have taken. And on the 12th of the 4th Moneth, being taken out of their Meeting, and had before the Mayor and Juſtices, who ſingled out *Rich. Smith*, and *Edw. Morgan*, and asked them, if they had recived the Sacrament; *Richard* told them, they had received Chriſt Jeſus, and were Witneſſes for him againſt the evil of that City: Tender them the Oath ſaid the Governor; ſaid the Mayor, Come will you take the Oath; this is, ſaid the Friend, unjuſt and ſavours of cruelty, to ſend for us here upon one account, and then to proceed againſt us upon another, that Oath being made againſt Papiſts, and you well know we are no Papiſts; ſo they bid the Clark make a Mittimus, but while he was writing they went to their Worſhip; ſo when they came back they asked Friends whether they would ſwear; Thou knowſt we deny all ſwearing; do you ſo, ſaid he, then we have another Act will take hold of you; and bid the Clark look the Act againſt the Quakers; but finding that would not ſerve their end; at laſt the Mayor clapt his hand on the Statute Book, and ſaid, If all the Law in this Book will bring you under, I will do it; ſo Friends bid him take heed of executing his own will inſtead of a Law; then he called for the reſt, and the Informers to be brought in; and ſaid, if they meet any more, he would ſend ſome of them to Priſon next time. The names of the Perſecutors are *Rob. Murry*, Mayor, Alderman *Poole*, and other Aldermen, and called Juſtices, *Jeffery Shackerley*, called a Knight, and the Governor of *Cheſter*.

A Short Narrative of the Proceedings againſt Theophilus Green, *Waterman, ſince the late Act.*

THe 15th of the 3d Moneth, 1670. Friends being kept out of their Meeting place at *Kingſton*, in the County of *Surrey*; and

and *Theophilus Green* being declaring to the People in the Street, the Bailiff of the Town with his Guard (more like savage Beasts, then rational men) violently pluckt the said *Theophilus Green* down, and haled him away to the Stock-house, where they lockt him up as a Fellon; and after had him to the Court-house, where they askt his name, and place of abode, and fined him twenty pound, not suffering him to answer for himself: the 22th day of the same Moneth he was fined 5 s. for being at a Meeting at *Hammersmith*, and on the 29th day, being seeking the Lord by prayer, at a Meeting at *Wandsworth* in *Surrey*, was had before a Justice, (so called) who fined him 40 l. for the same. the 12th of the 4th Moneth they took him again, at the same place declaring what he had received from the Lord, and the same man, called a Justice, fined him 40 l. more; the Officers of the Town of *Battersey*, (the place of his Habitation) unto whom the Warrants came, went several times to make distress on his goods, but still finding his doors shut, could not meet with any thing to seize on; the which Account they returned unto the Justice, but he refusing that account, required their appearing at their petty Sessions, where a Warrant, under four of their hands, was delivered unto them, for the breaking open his house, to take away his goods for the Kings part, as they said, which was done one the 1st of the 5th Moneth, 1670. taking away all the goods they found, leaving him not so much as a bed to lie on. And on the 3d of the 5th moneth he was taken at a Meeting at *Uxbridge* in *Middlesex*; and as he was seeking the Lord by prayer pluckt away, and kept till they got one called a Iustice, who told him, That he should pay 20 l. for his declaring to the people; and said, He had something more to say to him, which was, That he had spoken there seditious words, for which, if he did not find Suerties for the good behaviour, he should go to *Newgate*: The words that he counted seditious, were, That he had exhorted the people to keep their Meetings in the Name of *Jesus*, notwithstanding the Laws of men to the contrary, or words to that purpose, as the Mittimus expresseth.

But *Gallio*, (*Acts* 18.13.) although a *Roman* Iudge, when the Iews accused *Paul*, for exhorting, or teaching the People to worship God contrary to their Laws, replyed, saying, *If it had*

been

been a matter of wrong, or wicked lewdneſs, then I ſhould have heard you; and he drave them forth. The ſame charge they had againſt *Peter* and *John*, *Acts* 4. 18, 19, 20. for preaching to the people in the Name of *Jeſus*; but the anſwer of them was by way of queſtion, *Whether it was more right to hearken unto men, rather then God, they might judge*: And again *Acts* 5. 28, 29. It was ſaid, *Did we not ſtrictly command you, that you ſhould teach no more in this Name?* Then *Peter*, and the reſt of the Apoſtles anſwered and ſaid, *We ought to obey God rather then man.*

And the Reader may find in the Book of *Martyrs*, that *Robert Coe*, being demanded by the Biſh. of *Norwich*, *Whether he would obey the Kings Laws*; anſwered, *As far as they agree with Gods Word, I will obey them*; the Biſhop ſaid, *Whether they agree, or not agree with Gods word, we are bound to obey them, though the King were an Infidel*; *R. Coe* ſaid, *If* Shedreck, Meſheck, *and* Abednego *had ſo done*, Nebuchadnezar *had not confeſſed the true God.*

Some things Remarkable ſince received.

[*Note*] And by a Letter from *Woobourn* in *Bedfordſhire*, dated the 10th of the 5th Moneth, 1670. it is ſignified, That the Perſecutors were ſo wickedly bent againſt *William Albright* before mentioned, that when they came to his houſe the laſt time, they ſeized of all that ever he had, and ſearched his Houſe with a Candle and Lanthorn in the day time, leſt the poor man ſhould have any thing for the relief of himſelf and Family. And the 21th of the 8th Moneth, all his Goods being taken, they ſent the ſaid *William Albright* to Priſon, where he now remains. Oh the Cruelty of men, that one Neighbour ſhould be ſo bent to deſtroy another! Surely the Lord will Viſit for theſe things, and his Judgments will come upon this unmerciful Generation.

[*Note*] Some Friends being taken at the *Peel*-Meeting in *Johns-ſtreet*, in the County of *Middleſex*, the 17th of the 5th Moneth, and being brought before Juſtice *Foſter* and Juſtice *Boules* ſo called; after ſome words paſſed betwixt Friends and the Juſtices, the Major of the Souldiers appearing there againſt Friends, he ſaid to the Juſtices, *They were wont to call* ROME *the Whore, and ſaid ſhe ſhould be deſtroyed in 1666. but I trow it came upon* London; *for* London *was then burnt, and not* Rome (This he ſpake vauntingly.)

Speaking of Friends.

Here followeth the Copy of a Paper which was given forth before the late Act past against Meetings.

BEfore you further proceed to bring forth another Act against Meetings, we desire you to take notice of the sad Effects of the two former Acts, and to consider who must give an account for the Blood of many innocent Men and Women, who thereupon have died in Prisons and under Exile, and the Cries of many Widdows and Fatherless-Children, which were occasioned thereupon.

There hath suffered Imprisonment for Conscience-Sake, since the King came into *England*, above 8000. of the People of God called *Quakers*.

And there hath died Prisoners since the King came in, by reason of being kept up close, and other hard usage, 173. persons of the aforesaid People.

Of which number 79. died in *Newgate*, and on board the Ships, in the time of the *Contagion* in *London*, being Prisoners upon the Act against Meetings, and many of them under the Sentence of Transportation.

And there have been sentenced for Banishment 138. Persons.

And there remains now in Prison, for their good Conscience-Sake above 600. of the aforesaid People.

And further you are desired to consider what suffering and ruin such proceedings tend to, and will bring upon the Nation; for that a great part of the Trade and Imployment of the Poor depends upon the several sorts of People, who may be concerned in such an Act.

Again, We desire you to take notice, that the great Sufferings and Afflictions were continued upon us untill those sore Judgments of *Sword*, *Plague*, and *Fire*, in a great measure put a stop thereto; and since that sore Persecution hath thereupon ceased, the Nation hath been at quiet, and in a way of prosperity in their Affairs.

And

And however, If you make a Law against Meetings that may be of a more general Extent then only to reach us, yet seriously weigh and consider, whether it will not chiefly fall upon us in the execution as your former Laws did; For we being conscious towards God (and innocent) in our Christian Duty of Assembling together cannot (for fear of Mans's Wrath) decline our Testimony for God, nor creep into Holes and Corners any more then *Daniel* could, *When he Prayed as at other times.* See *Daniel* chap. 6.

[*From the Innocent People of God called* Quakers, *who desire yours (and the Nations) Welfare, and to keep a Conscience void of Offence towards God, and Man. Also that you would seriously mind that Equal Law of Christ*, To do unto all men as you would that they should do unto you; *And that the ROYAL LAW OF LOVE may not be forgotten amongst you.*

A Postscript.

THis great Havock Waste and Spoil that's made upon many honest Innocent and industrious people of this Nation (for their peaceable exercise of Religion, and worshipping God according to their Consciences in their Assemblies) let the Nation consider, what such Cruelties, Oppressions, and Robberies tend unto, however inflicted upon the Innocent under colour and pretence of Law, but by lawless and mercileſs men, who are let loſe to Rob and Spoil at their wills and pleasures, and make no Conscience of ruining and undoing their Neighbours, who are Free-born *English-men*, and how contrary and repugnant these unhumane and cruel proceedings are.

To Piety and Religion, and so tending to promote or encrease Idolatry, Atheism. and Debauchery.

To Christianity, which enjoyns to love one another.

To Gods Commandment, which enjoyns not to covet any of our Neighbours Goods.

To the equal Law of Christ, (and so repugnant to the Law and Prophets) which enjoyns men to do to all others as they would be done unto.

To

To the [illegible] tion of Parliaments, which were for the [illegible] of Free-born *Englishmen* in their Rights, Privileges and Properties, and not to destroy them.

To the Fundamental Laws (yea, to the Common-Law or Reason of *England*, which have been accounted so tender of mens Lives, Liberties, and Estates, as never to expose them to the wills and lusts of Mercinary self-interessed persons.

To the Prosperity of the Trade of the Nation, which is so greatly impared and decayed, and many honest industrious and serviceable men to the Nation discouraged and hindred therein, since these Disturbances, Persecutions, and Cruelties were renewed against conscientious Dissenters, for meeting to serve and worship God.

To the very spirit and grain of the People, that are any whit considerate of the miserable and sad tendence and end of such cruel and destructive proceedings to this Nation.

To Humanity it self, as tending to destroy all tenderness amongst men, and humane Society, and so all expectation of the mutual benefit of the Commerce and Trade of the Nation.

To the Promises aud Declarations for the Liberty of Tender Conscience, so oft renewed by the King, as have been manifest to the Nation.

These Relations aforesaid are diligently and impartially collected out of the several Accounts sent out of the Countries, to divers of the City; and there are many more great Sufferings in *York-shire*, and several other Countries, a particular account of which are not as yet sent up.

Tyranny and Violence are before me, Power overgoeth RIGHT; for the Law is torn in pieces, and there cannot right Judgment go forth: And why the Ungodly is more set by then the Righteous; this is the Cause that wrong Judgment proceedeth, Hab. 1. 3, 4. Old Translation.

And as for them, thou (O God) *shalt bring them into the Pit of Distruction: The Blood-thirsty and Deceitful men shall not live out half their dayes*, Psa. 55. 23.

THE END.